



Police stand guard during a demonstration outside the Ferguson Police Department, Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014, in Ferguson, Mo. Ferguson and the St. Louis region are on edge in anticipation of the announcement by a grand jury whether to criminally charge Officer Darren Wilson in the killing of 18-year-old Michael Brown.

Associated Press

Anxieties mount as Ferguson waits on grand jury

DAVID A. LIEB
ANDALE GROSS
Associated Press

FERGUSON, Missouri (AP)

— Anxiety and speculation mounted Sunday in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson as residents awaited a decision by a grand jury on whether to indict a white police officer in the shoot-

ing death of an unarmed black 18-year-old.

More than 3½ months have passed since police Officer Darren Wilson killed Michael Brown after a confrontation in the middle of a street in Ferguson. The shooting triggered riots and looting, and police responded with armored

vehicles and tear gas. The incident reignited debate over how police deal with young black men, and drew attention to racial tensions simmering in U.S. communities four decades after the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Two-thirds of Ferguson's residents are black but the

police force is almost entirely white. Many in the St. Louis area thought a grand jury decision on whether to charge Wilson with a crime would be announced Sunday, based partly on a stepped-up police presence in the preceding days, including the setting up of barricades around

the justice center where the panel was meeting. The grand jurors met Friday but apparently didn't reach a decision, and they were widely expected to reconvene on Monday, though there was no official confirmation of that. □

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Obama: Americans want 'new car smell' in 2016

DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

HENDERSON, Nevada

(AP) — President Barack Obama says voters want a "new car smell" in the 2016 White House race and that Hillary Rodham Clinton would be "a great president."

But would Clinton pass that particular smell test?

In a nationally televised interview broadcast Sunday, Obama seemed to suggest that any Democrat other than him would provide the turn of the page that he says voters are interested in. He acknowledged the "dings" to his own political standing during nearly six years of sometimes bruising battles with Congress and said Americans will want something new.

"They want to drive something off the lot that doesn't have as much mileage as me," Obama said in the interview with ABC's "This Week," which was taped Friday in Las Vegas following a public appearance there by the president.

He said a number of possible Democratic candidates would make "terrific presidents," but Hillary

Clinton is the only one he mentioned by name. He said she would be a "formidable candidate" and make "a great president" if she decides to run a sec-

Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill declined comment on the ABC interview.

Hillary Clinton has been a powerful force in Democratic politics for many

for and won a U.S. Senate seat from New York.

She later sought and lost the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination to Obama, then cemented

lence of another national political campaign.

New car smell or not, Democratic voters hold her in such high regard that she outdistances anyone else in polling of possible Democratic candidates for 2016. One of them is Vice President Joe Biden, who has not ruled out a third run for the White House.

Eight in 10 Democrats held positive views of Clinton in an Associated Press-GfK poll conducted in late July. Biden had a 71 percent favorable rating in the survey.

Obama acknowledged that Hillary Clinton won't agree with him on everything, suggesting that such a stance would be a welcome break for voters after eight years of Obama. A benefit of running for president, he said, "is you can stake out your own positions."

The 2016 presidential race could feature a repeat face-off between a Clinton and a member of another leading American political family: former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who is considering entering the 2016 race. His father and brother both were elected president. □



Hillary Rodham Clinton, former US Secretary of State, speaks during her keynote remarks at the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves summit, Friday Nov. 21, 2014 in New York.

Associated Press

ond time.

But if she does run — which she is considering, with a decision expected to be announced early next year — would she have that "new car" scent for voters?

years, beginning as Arkansas' first lady before she became America's first lady after her husband, Bill Clinton, was elected president in 1992. When his two terms were up, she ran

her worldwide profile by serving Obama as secretary of state in his first term. The Democratic political establishment is now awaiting word on whether she will take on the chal-



Barricades line the exterior of the Buzz Westfall Justice Center where a grand jury is expected to convene Monday to consider possible charges against the police officer who fatally shot Michael Brown in nearby Ferguson, Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014, in Clayton, Mo.

Ferguson

Continued from previous Page

Grand juries, composed of regular citizens, determine only whether probable cause exists to indict a suspect. If the jury indicts Wilson, a separate trial will be

held to decide whether to convict or acquit him.

During church services Sunday, some pastors encouraged their flocks not to fret. A choir sang, "We need you Lord right now" at the predominantly black Greater Grace Church in Ferguson. The pastor, Bishop L.O. Jones, referred to

the pending grand jury decision briefly.

"Everybody stand to your feet and tell somebody, 'Don't be afraid. God is still in control,'" Jones said as church members repeated after him.

The Rev. Freddy Clark of Shalom Church in nearby Florissant told the mostly black interdenominational congregation that "justice will be served" whichever way the decision goes, because God will take care of it.

"None of us are pleased about what happened," said parishioner James Tatum. "Whatever the verdict is, we have to understand that's the verdict."

As they wait, some people have continued daily protests, while speculation has grown that the delays are intentional.

"People feel like it's been engineered, so that the

results wouldn't come out until after the election and until the weather got cold, and it would be more difficult to protest," said Susan McGraugh, supervisor of the Criminal Defense Clinic at the Saint Louis University School of Law. "It's really adding fuel to the fire." Wilson has remained out of public view since the shooting, though CNN reported Sunday that he has met with network anchors to discuss possible interviews. Don Lemon and Anderson Cooper, both of CNN, each said on Twitter that they had met with Wilson.

St. Louis County Prosecutor Bob McCulloch had said he expected a grand jury decision by mid-to-late November. But that's not ultimately in his control.

The 12-person grand jury deliberates in secret, without McCulloch, and sets its

own schedule depending upon when the members are available.

It's not uncommon for deliberations to take a while in complex cases when, such as in the Brown shooting, self-defense is alleged or there are two widely conflicting versions of events, said Cole County Prosecutor Mark Richardson, who is not involved in the Ferguson case. Downtown STL Inc., a St. Louis civic group that promotes downtown businesses, told members in an email Saturday that the grand jury will reconvene Monday to continue deliberating. The email did not explain how the group knew that, and McCulloch's office has not commented on the grand jury's schedule.

If jurors meet Monday, there is no guarantee they will reach a decision that day, or even this week. □

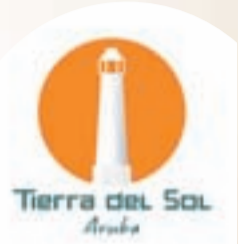
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Former D.C. Mayor Marion Barry dies at 78

**BEN NUCKOLS
BRETT ZONGKER
Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — A controversial and tireless advocate for the U.S. capital who helped uplift the city's majority black population, Marion Barry was the ultimate Washington, D.C., politician, though his arrest for drug use in the midst of a crack cocaine epidemic came to overshadow his accomplishments. The former four-term mayor will long be remembered for one night in 1990 when he was caught on video lighting a crack pipe in an FBI undercover operation. In an instant, the then-mayor of the capital city was exposed as a drug user himself.

Barry, 78, died Sunday at the United Medical Center, after having been released from a hospital a day earlier. His spokeswoman, LaToya Foster, said he collapsed outside his home. Barry died naturally of heart problems caused by high blood pressure, and his kidney disease was a contributing factor, the D.C. medical examiner said. Barry had a kidney transplant several years ago.

Barry first made a name for himself in the South as a leader in the civil rights movement and brought his fierce advocacy to Washington to support the fight to free the city to manage its own city affairs, not Congress. That legacy was remembered Sunday at the White House upon news of Barry's death.

"Marion was born a sharecropper's son, came of

age during the Civil Rights movement, and became a fixture in D.C. politics for decades," President Barack Obama said. "During his decades in elected office in D.C., he put in place historic programs to lift working people out of poverty, expand opportunity and begin to make real the promise of home rule."

Barry was born March 6, 1936, in the Mississippi Delta and was raised in Memphis, Tennessee, after the death of his father, a sharecropper.

Barry's work in the civil rights movement brought him to Washington. He was elected to the city council in 1974. Four years later, Barry defeated incumbent Mayor Walter Washington in the Democratic primary and went on to easily win the general election.

Barry's early years in office were marked by improvement in many city services and a dramatic expansion of the government payroll, creating a thriving black middle class in the U.S. capital. He established a summer jobs program that gave many young people their first work experience and earned him political capital.

The city's drug-fueled decline in the 1980s and 1990s mirrored Barry's battles with his personal demons, leading to the infamous hotel room arrest on Jan. 19, 1990. A video of the arrest, which showed him smoking crack cocaine, was widely distributed to the media and made him infamous worldwide.

"Bitch set me up," Barry



Former Mayor and current DC City Council member Marion Barry arrives at a media availability to endorse Mayor Vincent Gray's bid for re-election, in this, March 19, 2014 file photo taken in Washington.

famously cursed when FBI agents burst in, referring to the woman who helped the FBI set up the sting. Federal authorities had been investigating him for years for his alleged ties to drug suspects.

His arrest and subsequent conviction — a jury deadlocked on most counts, convicting him of a single count of drug possession — was a turning point for Barry.

A six-month term in federal prison was hardly the end of Barry's political career. But it forever changed how it was perceived. To some, he was a pariah and an embarrassment.

A few months after his arrest, long-time civil rights advocate and educator Roger Wilkins, a past supporter, wrote in The Wash-

ington Post: "Marion Barry used the elders and lied to the young. He has manipulated thousands of others with his cynical use of charges of racism to defend his malodorous personal failures."

But to many residents, particularly lower-income blacks, he was still a hero, someone unfairly persecuted for personal failures.

Barry returned to the D.C. Council in 1992, representing the poorest of the city's eight wards. Two years later, he won his fourth and final term as mayor. His political triumph was short-lived. In 1995, with the city flirting with bankruptcy from years of bloated, unaccountable government, much of it under Barry, Congress stripped him of much of his power and installed a

Associated Press
financial control board. He decided against seeking a fifth term.

Barry couldn't stay away from politics, though. In 2004, he returned to the D.C. Council, again representing Ward 8, where he remained beloved. He was re-elected in 2008 and 2012.

Barry suffered numerous health problems over the years. In addition to kidney failure, he survived prostate cancer. In early 2014, he spent several weeks in hospitals battling infections and related complications. Current Mayor Vincent Gray ordered flags in the city lowered in Barry's honor.

Barry was married four times and is survived by his wife, Cora, and one son, Marion Christopher Barry.



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Obama defends moves on immigration

DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press
HENDERSON, Nevada (AP) — President Barack Obama is shrugging off Republican criticism of his actions to lift the threat of deportation from millions of immigrants living illegally in the United States. In an interview broadcast Sunday on ABC's "This Week," Obama said it was important that he act unilaterally to prioritize the deportation of criminals and recent arrivals and spare those who have lived illegally in the U.S. for at least five years and have roots, including children who are American citizens. "Why we would prefer a system in which they're in the shadows, potentially taking advantage of liv-

ing here but not contributing?" Obama said in the interview, which was taped Friday in Las Vegas after Obama delivered an immigration speech there. The president pointed to executive orders issued by Democratic and Republican predecessors and said presidents exercise "prosecutorial discretion all the time." Obama's executive actions, which he announced Thursday, has drawn a withering response from Republicans, but also has laid bare divisions within Republican ranks over how to deal with immigration. Republican Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas rejected Obama's claim of prosecutorial discretion. "Essentially he's gotten in the job of coun-



President Barack Obama signs two presidential memoranda associated with his actions on immigration in his office on Air Force One as he arrives at McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas, Friday, Nov. 21, 2014, before traveling to Del Sol High School to speak about the steps he will be taking on immigration.
Associated Press

terfeiting immigration papers, because there's no legal authority to do what he's doing," Cruz said on "Fox News Sunday."

A second Republican, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, said his party shares the blame for failing to get an immigration bill through the House of Representatives. "Shame on us as Republicans for having a body that cannot generate a solution to an issue that is national security, it's cultural and it's economic. The Senate has done this three times," Graham said on CNN's "State of the Union."

Indeed, Obama cast his decision as the result of the failure of the Republican-led House of Representatives to act on a comprehensive immigration bill the Senate passed with bipartisan support in June 2013, or advance legislation of its own. He said Republicans still could pass an immigration bill. Rep. Raul Labrador of Idaho said he had pressed the Republican leadership to start passing legislation two weeks ago on the immigration issue. "We are going to pass legislation, but it is not going to be the legislation the president is asking for," Labrador said. "We as Republicans don't believe you should give amnesty first and talk about security later, which is what the Senate bill did." Labrador spoke on "Face the Nation" on CBS. Obama spent the weekend in Nevada, mostly playing golf, after the speech and returned to the White House on Sunday evening. □

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Relatives question honor for civil rights workers

EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS

Associated Press

JACKSON, Mississippi (AP)

— Three civil rights workers who were killed by Ku Klux Klansmen in 1964 are going to be posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, but the honor makes some of their relatives uneasy.

They worry it could relegate the racial equality movement to history books when it should instead be seen as relevant as ever, particularly in light of what happened in Ferguson, Missouri, where a white police officer fatally shot an unarmed black 18-year-old in August.

A widow of one of the civil rights activists said the honor, which will be awarded Monday by President Barack Obama in a ceremony at the White House, "distorts history."

"There were not just three men who were part of a struggle. There were not just three men who were killed," Rita Schwerner Bender told The Associated Press in a phone interview from her law office in Seattle. "You know, the struggle in this country probably started with the first revolt on a slave ship, and it continues now."

The civil rights workers — Michael Schwerner, James Chaney and Andrew Goodman — were killed June 21, 1964, in Neshoba County, Mississippi. The FBI launched a massive in-

vestigation that it dubbed "Mississippi Burning," and the three bodies were found 44 days later, buried in an earthen dam.

Goodman's younger brother, David Goodman

erner, were white.

"It took (the deaths of) two white men to wake up white America what black America in the South particularly knew — that you could get murdered for

projects. Chaney, who was black and from Mississippi, befriended him. Goodman, who was also from New York, underwent civil rights training in Ohio before arriving in Mississippi.

for speeding and took the three to the Neshoba County jail. The deputy released them late that night, and the men were ambushed by awaiting Klansmen who chased them to an isolated country road and shot them to death.

In 1967, an all-white jury in Meridian convicted seven men on federal civil rights charges tied to the conspiracy to kill Schwerner, Chaney and Goodman. The state reopened an investigation decades later, and on June 21, 2005 — exactly 41 years after the slayings — a jury made up of whites and blacks in Neshoba County convicted Edgar Ray Killen of manslaughter. He remains in state prison.

Chaney's sister, the Rev. Julia Chaney Moss, of Willingboro, New Jersey, said her older brother would always ask their mother: "Why do we have to live this way?"

She said the award should be for all of those killed during the civil rights movement.

"It's really about all of those families," she said. "It's really about the history of the pain of the African-American experience in Mississippi."

The activists are among 19 people, including Stevie Wonder and Meryl Streep, who will be awarded the nation's highest civilian honor Monday. □



In this June 15, 2014 file photograph, flowers top the memorial marker for Michael Schwerner, James Chaney and Andrew Goodman, civil rights workers who were killed in the "Mississippi Burning" case of 1964, outside the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, Miss., following a commemorative service in their honor.


Associated Press

of Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, said the killings received intense national attention, from President Lyndon B. Johnson on down, because two of the activists, Goodman and Schw-


your opinion or wanting to vote," David Goodman said.

Schwerner, of New York, moved to Mississippi in early 1964 to work on black voter registration and other


The three men drove to Neshoba County on June 21, 1964, to investigate the burning of a black church. As they left the church, a deputy stopped their station wagon, cited Chaney



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Buffalo residents urged to prepare for flooding

BUFFALO, New York (AP) — Buffalo is making significant progress clearing streets still clogged from an epic storm left more than 7 feet (2.1 meters) of snow even as a flooding threat looms, the city's mayor said Sunday. A ban on driving will continue in hard-hit South Buffalo as hundreds of dump trucks, loaders and other snow removal equipment continue to work around the clock, Mayor Byron Brown said. Temperatures in the Buffalo area climbed into the 40s Fahrenheit (5 to 10 degrees Celsius) Sunday, raising fears of flooding in the region. A flood warning from the National Weather Service is in effect until Monday afternoon. "We are preparing for the worst but hoping for the best," Brown said. Hundreds of volunteers turned out in a "shovel



Mark Petrik and Dennis Smith dig out their south Buffalo driveway on Saturday, Nov. 22, 2014, in Buffalo, N.Y. Western New York continues to dig out from the heavy snow dropped by this week by lake-effect snowstorms.

Associated Press

brigade" Saturday to help beleaguered Buffalo residents dig out after they were pummeled by a lake effect snow from Lake Erie. "They're like angels," said Kevin Masterson, 61, after a handful of volunteers swarmed in to free his and his brother-in-law's cars from the drifts. "I was out shoveling and ... all of the sudden I had all these people." One of the volunteers, Greg Schreiber, said he'd keep going "until the back gives out." City officials said residents should prepare for the possibility of flooded basements in the coming days. Rain was expected Sunday and temperatures were forecast to approach

60 degrees F (15 degrees C) on Monday, accompanied by more rain. National Weather Service meteorologist Jon Hitchcock said there might be trouble with drainage as snow and uncollected autumn leaves block catch basins. The threat of rain also heightened fears of roof collapses on already strained structures. Thirty major collapses have been reported. The state already is moving stockpiles of pumps, sand bags and other flood provisions into the region. The snow, which began late Monday and finally cleared out of all areas by daybreak Friday, has been blamed for at least 12 deaths.

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Man who ambushed cops had anti-government beliefs



This photo shows a home where authorities said a gunman set his house on fire and fatally shot the first deputy who arrived Saturday, Nov. 22, 2014 in Tallahassee, Fla.

Associated Press

GARY FINEOUT
Associated Press
TALLAHASSEE, Florida (AP) — A man who set his house on fire and ambushed responding police officers held "anti-government, anti-establishment" views and had previously threatened law enforcement, authorities said Sunday.

The gunman was identified as 53-year-old Curtis Wade Holley. Authorities said he fatally shot Leon County Sheriff's Deputy Christopher Smith, 47, on Saturday and wounded another deputy before he was killed in a gun battle outside his home.

At a news conference Sunday, sheriff's Lt. James McQuaig wouldn't detail the nature of the previous threats or Holley's anti-government beliefs. Holley had lived at the end of a cul-de-sac in a middle class neighborhood for about a year, McQuaig said.

Smith was the first Leon County Sheriff's Office employee to be killed in the line of duty in nearly 40 years, according to the department. The deputy who was wounded was shot while telling

firefighters to stay away. Because he was wearing a bullet-proof vest, his injuries were not life-threatening. No one was hurt in the fire.

Two Tallahassee police officers also responded to the shooting, including one who lived nearby and fatally shot Holley.

"Our responders yesterday were targeted for no other reason than they chose to spend their lives helping people," said Tallahassee Police Chief Michael DeLeo. "There is no doubt that the actions of our deputies and officers prevented additional loss of life."

McQuaig said that it appeared the fire had been burning for a while before authorities arrived because they didn't receive the emergency call until flames were visible from the outside. The house was completely destroyed.

Holley's name and address had been entered into a law enforcement computer system because of his previous threats, but the emergency dispatcher who took the fire call put in the address of a neighbor who

reported the blaze, so the alert wasn't activated and the Leon County deputy who responded first had no warning, according to an official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to release the information.

McQuaig would only say Sunday that there would be an investigation into how deputies were dispatched. The shooting near Florida's capital came just two days after a police shootout at Florida State University left a gunman dead after he wounded two students and an employee. □

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Damage worse than thought in Japanese earthquake

**KEN MORITSUGU
MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press**

TOKYO (AP) — The damage from an overnight earthquake in a mountainous area of central Japan that hosted the 1998 winter Olympics proved more extensive than initially thought.

A daylight assessment Sunday found at least 50 homes destroyed in two villages, and 41 people injured across the region, including seven seriously, mostly with broken bones, officials said.

The magnitude-6.7 earthquake struck shortly after 10 p.m. Saturday west of Nagano city at a depth of 5 kilometers (3 miles), the Japan Meteorological Agency said. The agency revised the magnitude

and depth from initial estimates. The U.S. Geological Survey recorded a magnitude of 6.2. Since the quake occurred inland, there was no possibility of a tsunami.

Ryo Nishino, a restaurant owner in Hakuba, a ski resort village west of Nagano, told Japanese broadcaster NHK that he had "never experienced a quake that shook so hard. The sideways shaking was enormous." He said he was in the restaurant's wine cellar when the quake struck, and that nothing broke there.

Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority said no abnormalities were reported at three nuclear power plants in the affected areas. All of Japan's nuclear plants are offline fol-



This aerial photo shows collapsed houses after a strong earthquake hit Hakuba, Nagano prefecture, central Japan, Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014.

Associated Press

lowing a magnitude-9.0 earthquake and massive tsunami in 2011 that sent three reactors at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant into meltdown. Fukushima is about 250 kilometers (155

miles) northeast of where Saturday's earthquake occurred. The hardest-hit area appeared to be Hakuba, which hosted events in the 1998 winter games. At least 43 homes were destroyed there, and 17 people injured, national and local disaster agencies said. Another seven homes were lost in Otari, a nearby village to the north. Non-residential buildings were also destroyed, with officials assessing the extent.

Japanese television footage showed buildings in various states of collapse, some flattened and others leaning to one side, and deep cracks in the roads. A landslide spilled onto a railroad track, forcing service to stop. About 200 people from Hakuba and Otari had evacuated to shelters.

Shigeharu Fujimori, a Nagano prefecture disaster management official, said it was fortunate there haven't been any deaths reported despite the extent of the damage.

More than 20 people

trapped under collapsed houses were rescued, the National Police Agency told Japan's Kyodo news agency. Japanese television showed police going house to house Sunday morning, calling out to make sure that inhabitants were accounted for.

"The hardest-hit area was in the mountains and sparsely populated, where neighbors have a close relationship and help each other," Fujimori said. "So I don't think anyone has been forgotten or left isolated."

Shinkansen bullet train service in the region was restored after a short interruption. Chubu Electric Power Co. said 200 homes remained without power on Sunday.

The quake has been followed by more than 60 aftershocks, and Meteorological Agency official Yohei Hasegawa urged residents to watch out for landslides. The area was struck by a magnitude-6.7 earthquake the day after the huge March 2011 quake. □

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Putin says he won't be Russia's president for life

LYNN BERRY
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Vladimir Putin has said he won't remain Russia's president for life and will step down in line with the constitution no later than 2024, according to an interview with a Russian news agency released Sunday.

Staying in office beyond that would be "detrimental for the country and I don't need this," he told the Tass news agency.

Putin, 62, has effectively led Russia since he was first elected in 2000. He stepped aside after two four-year terms to abide by constitutional term limits, but retained power as prime minister and was elected president again in 2012 to a six-year term.

Putin said his decision on whether to run for a fourth term in 2018 will depend on the situation in the country and his "own mood."

Throughout the interview, Putin described efforts at home and abroad that he said were aimed at trying to undermine his rule.

He said the Western sanctions against Russian individuals and businesses over Ukraine were an attempt to punish his friends and were "driven by a desire

to cause a split in the elite and then, perhaps, in society." But to the West's chagrin, Putin said, Russian society remained consolidated behind him.

He described Russian laws that restrict foreign funding of non-governmental organizations and foreign ownership of media organizations as necessary to prevent outside interests from influencing Russian politics. Putin acknowledged that not all Russians support him, which he said was fine as long as their criticism was constructive and they didn't violate the law. But he said his government would crush anyone who tried to weaken the state, describing them as "bacteria."

"They sit inside you, these bacilli, these bacteria, they are there all of the time," Putin said. "But when an organism is strong, you can always keep back the flu because of your immune system."

He said it was wrong to see U.S. newspapers as independent just because they were able to criticize President Barack Obama, suggesting he saw the press as a political tool.

"How can it be independent if it works together

with the political opponents of the White House chief?" Putin said. "There is no independence; there is full dependence and the servicing of certain forces." Putin said Russia also has such critical newspapers and sometimes he has to read them because his press secretary brings him "all sorts of filth."



In this file photo taken Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014, Russian President Vladimir Putin prepare to toast with ambassadors in the Alexander Hall after a ceremony of presentation of credentials by foreign ambassadors in the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow, Russia. Associated Press

Weekly Calendar

CRYSTAL
Casino

MONDAY **SENIOR NIGHT**

Seniors 50+ receive 1x \$10 Free Slot Play after earning 50 points during the week. From 6:00pm - 10:00pm

WEDNESDAY **RANDOM PICK SLOT WINNERS**

- Prize 1 = Dinner for two at L.G. Smiths
 - Prize 2 = Lunch for two at Aquarius
 - Prize 3 = \$50 Free Slot Play (Raffle will start from 8:00pm)
- Accumulate 25 points during the week and you are eligible to win

THURSDAY **FREE SLOT TOURNAMENT**

- Prize 1 = \$100 • Prize 2 = \$150 • Prize 3 = \$200 • Prize 4 = \$250
- Registration starts at 6:00pm - Tournament starts at 8:00pm
Accumulate 25 points during the week and you are eligible to participate at the tournament

FRIDAY **CRYSTAL DAZZLE NIGHT**

- FREE SLOT PLAY:**
- Prize 1 = \$75 • Prize 2 = \$125 • Prize 3 = \$150
- CASH PRIZES:**
- Prize 4 = \$200 • Prize 5 = \$300

SATURDAY **SIZZLING CASH**

- Prize 1 = \$200 • Prize 2 = \$400 • Prize 3 = \$1000
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Israeli Cabinet moves to define Israel as Jewish

JOSEF FEDERMAN
ARON HELLER
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — In a move likely to further inflame tensions with Israel's Arab citizens, the Israeli Cabinet on Sunday approved a bill to legally define the country as the nation-state of the Jewish people.

The decision, which set off a stormy debate that could bring down Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's brittle coalition government, followed weeks of deadly Arab-Jewish violence and was denounced by critics as damaging to the country's democratic character and poorly timed at such a combustible moment.

It now heads toward a full parliamentary vote on Wednesday.

Israel has always defined itself as the "Jewish state" — a term that was contained in the country's declaration of independence in

1948. The new law seeks to codify that status as a "Basic Law," Israel's de facto constitution.

While many critics derided the measure as unnecessary, Netanyahu told his Cabinet the bill is a response to Israel's Arab critics both inside and outside Israel who question the country's right to exist.

Netanyahu has long demanded that the Palestinians recognize Israel as the Jewish homeland as a condition of any peace deal. Both the Palestinians and their Arab Israeli brethren say such acceptance would harm the rights of Israel's more than 1.5 million Arab citizens.

The bill calls not only for recognizing Israel's Jewish character but for institutionalizing Jewish law as an inspiration for legislation and dropping Arabic as an official language.

Netanyahu insisted that Israel would be both Jewish



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu listens during in his Cabinet meeting in his office in Jerusalem on Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014. At the start of the meeting, Netanyahu called for a bill that would revoke residency rights for Palestinians involved in attacks against Israelis.

and democratic.

"There are those who would like the democratic to prevail over the Jewish and there are those who would like the Jewish to prevail over the democratic," he said. "And in the principles of the law that I will submit today both of these values are equal and both must be considered to the same

degree."

Israel is in the midst of its worst sustained bout of violence in nearly a decade. Eleven Israelis have been killed in Palestinian attacks over the past month, including five people who were killed with guns and meat cleavers in a bloody assault on a Jerusalem synagogue last week.

Jewish nationalists in Netanyahu's coalition had pushed hard for the bill. The two centrist parties in the Cabinet, Yesh Atid and Hatnua, provided the only opposition in the 14-6 vote. Finance Minister Yair Lapid, head of Yesh Atid, called it a "terrible" piece of legislation meant to appease hard-liners ahead of primaries in Netanyahu's hawkish Likud Party.

Health Minister Yael German, another Yesh Atid member, said the party would support a law only if it emphasized Israel's Jewish and democratic nature equally.

"This bill does not preserve that value. It will be a mark of shame for the parlia-

ment to pass such a law," she said.

A vote against the bill in parliament by the party could break up the coalition and even trigger new elections. Yesh Atid is the second-largest faction in parliament and could rob Netanyahu of his majority. In a statement, Israel's attorney general, Yehuda Weinstein, said he had serious doubts about the legality of the bill's language because it impinges on Israel's democratic character. The measure could still be delayed or watered down before it is put to a vote in parliament.

Ahmad Tibi, a leading Arab lawmaker, denounced the bill as an attack on Arab natives of the country and called on the world to offer them protection. Dov Khenin, leader of the mixed Jewish-Arab Hadash party, accused Netanyahu of "pouring fuel into the bonfire of hate."

Israeli Arabs, who make up about 20 percent of the population, have long complained of discrimination and second-class status.

Last week, the mayor of the southern city of Ashkelon sparked an uproar by banning Arab construction laborers from working in Israeli preschools on security grounds. The mayor, Itamar Shimoni, reversed his decision on Sunday but said the children would be moved to other locations while construction proceeded.

Though citizens of Israel, the country's Arabs often identify with Palestinians in the West Bank, and their loyalty to the state is often questioned by Jews.

Thanksgiving Menu

on November 27th 2014

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Portuguese ex-premier kept in jail amid fraud case

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Former Portuguese Prime Minister Jose Socrates is spending a third straight night in jail as officials continue to investigate him for suspected corruption, money-laundering and tax fraud.

Socrates's lawyer, Joao Araujo, told reporters that after a preliminary hearing Sunday the investigating judge decided he needs to ask Socrates more questions. He said the interrogation will continue Monday. The judge must rule whether Socrates should be released or held pending a trial.

Socrates, who was Portugal's center-left Socialist prime minister from 2005 to

In this May 19, 2011 photo, Portugal's former Prime Minister Jose Socrates gestures as he answers a question during a business conference in Lisbon, Portugal.

Associated Press

2011, was detained by police late Friday. The Attorney-General's office said he and three others are suspected of colluding in crimes.

Officials provided no further details, citing Portugal's judicial secrecy law which forbids the disclosure of details from ongoing investigations.

Evacuations in Cape Verde after volcano erupts

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — The government of the Cape Verde islands off West Africa says a volcano there has erupted for the first time in almost 20 years. Prime Minister Jose Maria das Neves said in a statement posted on the government website Sunday the eruption was on Fogo, one of the archipelago's 10 islands. No injuries were reported.

Das Neves said officials be-

gan evacuating residents after the eruption began Sunday morning. Civil protection staff and military were being flown to the island to help.

Geological services had warned in recent weeks that the Pico do Fogo volcano in the former Portuguese colony was increasingly active.

No further details were immediately available. □



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WEDNESDAY **BINGO NIGHT**

Starts at 9:30pm. Issuing Bingo Card from 9:00pm
With 25 points on your member's card you receive a free bingo card

THURSDAY **FREE SLOT TOURNAMENT**

Prize 1 = \$50 Prize 2 = \$50 Prize 3 = \$150 Prize 4 = \$250
Inscription at 6:00pm - Tournament starts at 8:00pm
Accumulate 25 points during the week and you are eligible to participate at the tournament

FRIDAY **CRAZY CASH**

Prize 1 = \$100 Prize 2 = \$200 Prize 3 = \$300
9:30pm, 10:30pm and 11:00pm

SATURDAY **TABLE MANIA**

Prize 1 = \$100 Prize 2 = \$200 Prize 3 = \$300

SUNDAY **DOUBLE THE FUN POINTS**

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ARUBA WINE TIDINE

Influx of cheap Peruvian quinoa riles Bolivia

**CARLOS VALDEZ
FRANK BAJAK**

Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — International demand for quinoa continues to boom, and that's fueling an increasingly bitter commercial feud between Bolivia and Peru, the two main producers of the Andean "superfood."

The fight pits hardscrabble, traditional organic growers mostly in Bolivia's semi-arid highlands against upstart Peruvian agribusinesses concentrated on the Pacific coast that include heavy pesticide users. Peru is about to overtake Bolivia as the top exporter, worrying Bolivians about their ability to compete.

As Peru boosts production



In this Nov. 7, 2014 photo, a man holds Peruvian quinoa, part of 23 metric tons to be burned in Guaqui, Bolivia.

from organic Bolivian farmers. But with quinoa prices increasing eightfold over five years, "in the U.S. a lot of buyers from supermarkets are looking at legally mixing quinoa from Peru and quinoa from Bolivia as a way to reduce price," Rollet said.

Organic quinoa now fetches up to \$10 a pound retail in the United States, with non-organic available for as much as half that price. But for producers, the wholesale price for organic quinoa has dropped from a peak of a little over \$8,000 a metric ton early this year and is now down to about \$6,000, Rollet said. Non-organic quinoa fetches considerably less.

"There is so much supply on the market because of Peru's big production that prices simply must go down," said Pablo Laguna, a Bolivian anthropologist and quinoa expert. "The price downturn is irreversible." That worries Bolivia's small-scale quinoa farmers, who can't produce as cheaply as their Peruvian competitors.

Mamani, the farmer who joined in the protest in La Paz, grows the prized, larger-seeded reddish-purple royal quinoa in Bolivian's southwestern highlands at altitudes of nearly 12,000 feet using llama manure as fertilizer.

He complains that a 110-pound (50-kilogram) sack that he could sell for \$347 last year now fetches just \$260. "That simply no longer covers my costs," said Mamani, who uses pesticides but not chemical fertilizers. Global warming is also hurting production as highlands weather becomes more erratic — with more frequent frosts and dry spells. □

of cheaper factory-farmed quinoa, the grain is increasingly being smuggled into landlocked Bolivia to be mixed with, and sometimes sold as, organic quinoa — Bolivia's specialty, growers and government officials say.

"They are trying to force us to lower prices," said Reynaldo Mamani, who along with some 500 other Bolivian quinoa farmers marched on the presidential palace Monday to demand that President Evo Morales halt the invasion of Peruvian quinoa.

A week earlier, Bolivian authorities took 23 metric tons of Peruvian quinoa seized at a checkpoint near the border, dumped it into a ditch, soaked it with diesel fuel and burned it for TV crews — an extreme measure in a country where nearly half the people are poor and roughly one in five toddlers suffers from malnutrition.

Peru and Bolivia both made quinoa, which scientists consider as nutritious as

mother's milk, an export priority even before the United Nations declared 2013 as International Quinoa Year. Although marketed as a grain, quinoa is actually a seed from the goose-foot plant family.

A decade ago, Peru accounted for just 6 percent of global sales while Bolivia had 90 percent, according to U.N. figures. But Peru is on track to supplant Bolivia this year as the top exporter, having doubled production from 2013 to 95,000 metric tons amid strong demand from the U.S. and Europe.

Peru's higher output stems from greater use of insecticides and chemical fertilizers as agribusiness steps up cultivation in coastal valleys, where there are two harvests a year compared to one in the highlands.

"It is a smaller grain, and we know there is very little organic in Peru," said Eduard Rollet, president of San Francisco-based Alter Eco, a "fair-trade" company that buys quinoa directly

Open House

Tuesday November 25, 2014

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The Blue Lobster Restaurant Puts the Sizzle Back in the Strip!



PALM BEACH - On what is becoming (again) the Strip in the district of Noord in Aruba, there is only good news coming out one after the other. Excellent culinary facilities are now booming and many new restaurants and cafes/bars and entertaining facilities are now available, providing exceptional service and a great variety of cuisines, pleasing all kinds of tastes and even the more sophisticated patrons.

Many of these facilities have been awarded the Certificate of Excellence by TripAdvisor confirming the high quality of their food and service. The Blue Lobster Restaurant is one of the best new places involved in this renaissance. Some 15-to-20 years ago this area was the place to be, and for sure in the memories of the loyal Aruba visitors, many good moments will come to mind when having the opportunity to visit this area again.

If you like to have a fantastic dinner and enjoy a relaxing atmosphere all you need to do is take a short walk beyond Wendy's after the traffic lights, in this area you will find 2 great seafood restaurants, which

have made for themselves two of the best names in Aruban seafood cuisine. And those are The Blue Lobster and Waky-Wahoo. A little bit off the beaten path, but it is guaranteed to be worth the trip. Take a walk under the stars - hold hands and enjoy the unique fresh night breeze as you get in the mood for these fantastic eateries.

Or take any taxi from the hotel strip; this will be just a 5-minute ride, or 8-minutes from town or the low rise hotels.

Some of the landmark restaurants are still there, serving their hundreds of loyal clients, which have been coming there for a wonderful dinner, year after year, and the trend continues now with the new kids in the block. For example, The Blue Lobster Restaurant has been there for only 36 months and already 75% of the clientele are repeat visitors. And it is showing an increase of 25% on new clients.

For sure you would like to come and see what is going on at the Palm Beach area, a bit away from the High Rise Hotels - and you will not regret giving it a try! The Blue Lobster Restaurant is heading the spe-

cialty culinary experience by offering an extensive menu with over 25 dishes prepared with lobster, as well as fresh catch-of-the-day. Also, top quality meat dishes, pasta, seafood, a kids menu and even veg-

son (lobster included)!

A piece of advice: always ask for the specials - some days of the week you can get a three course dinner for a fantastic low price.

Some clients have said 'The name is bigger than

the restaurant.' Yes it is small in size, but big in quality food and professional service.

Also some have said: 'It does not look like much on the outside.... Agree, all the effort has been put in the quality and the warm Caribbean ambiance inside, along with the best seafood and international cuisine you can find on the island. But see for yourself, see what clients are saying about The Blue Lobster Restaurant, in the comments cards presented herewith. And do not miss this fantastic culinary experience.... The Blue Lobster Experience!'



etarian dishes are found at this little, romantic and local-flavored restaurant. Visit The Blue Lobster Restaurant and you will be pleasantly surprised. We heard that there is something for every budget; you can go for a live 3kilo lobster, or an 18oz lobster tail or a 500gram half lobster a la thermidor. Of if you prefer go for the regular menu!

And the best is that prices in the regular menu do not surpass 40 bucks per per-



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Kitchen Table by White: Fresh, Authentic Island Flavors

PALM BEACH - Island gourmards and vacationers who appreciate fine dining are buzzing about the unique experience of Kitchen Table by White, which opened in Blue Residences this summer. Helmed by Chef Urvin Croes, founder of White Modern Cuisine, Kitchen Table boasts that same attention to detail that made his first venture such a success, along with a vibrant, passionate staff dedicated to the concept of elevating traditional Aruban and Caribbean dishes to the realm of haute cuisine.

"Aruba has more than its share of French/Italian/fast food restaurants and steakhouses," observes Chef Urvin, "but I honestly believe that island visitors



are looking for a distinctive experience, not something they can have at home any

time. During their stay, they wish to savor the authentic flavors of the region, and

we have sought out fresh, locally grown ingredients and interpreted traditional island dishes in a manner to surprise and please the most finicky critic."

Urvin and his team are all graduates of Aruba's highly-respected EPI Culinary Institute. He continued his studies at the ROC Gildewaart College, Nieuwegein, then apprenticed at the Brasserie Goeie Luisa, advancing to become their Chef de Partie. Urvin further developed his culinary skills during five years at the famed Michelin 5* rated Grand Restaurant Karel V, perfectly his art before returning to Aruba to open his own eatery.

Second in command, Sous Chef Ludovico Henriquez, and the Kitchen Table staff, consisting of Claude Werleman, Moises Ramirez and Jefferson Ramirez, are equally passionate about the concept of food as art. Watching them create the spectacular dishes in the elegant but cozy surroundings is a great part of the evening's entertainment. The multi-course meal is a feast for the eyes as well as the tastebuds; the inventive

uses of just-picked regional flowers and herbs such as frangipani, moringa, mata di seda and koko robona are explained, so diners can truly comprehend the careful thought and preparation that goes into each dish.

Rounding out the Kitchen Table culinary team is Restaurant Manager and Wine Sommelier Carlito Castillo, who thoroughly enjoys sharing his love of fine vintages and has a deft touch at pairing them to perfection. His enthusiasm for the delicate art of enhancing the flavors of both the wine and food with an ideal match is as infectious as his



ready smile and congenial charm. He spent ten years in the kitchens of the Royal Caribbean cruise lines, where as a novice to the food service industry he discovered their wine cellars. His passion for the art won him first place among over 1500 employees during a stringent wine testing contest among all the line's culinary staffers.

Discover island cuisine elevated to an elegant but intimate dining experience at Kitchen Table. Seating is extremely limited with only 14 reservations accepted nightly and four held for spur-of-the-moment gourmards. Reserve early online via reservations@ktbywhite.com, or call 528-7015.



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Mc Cabe's & Brengartner's were honored at the Casa del Mar

Recently Eric and Mary Ellen Brengartner together with John and Katherine McCabe were honored as an Ambassador of Goodwill after returning to Aruba for more than 20 years consecutive years.

The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for between 10 and 20 years consecutive.

Mr. Jonathan Boekhoudt representing Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony at the Casa del Mar. Top reasons for returning to Aruba were that they consider Aruba to be the "Happy Island", the great weather, friendly Aruban Hospitality, white sandy beaches and the local food.

On the pictures Monique with Casa del Mar together with the honorees.

Thomas and Deborah Gannon honored at the La Cabana



Thomas and Deborah Gannon have been calling Aruba their home away from home for over 20 years. They have travelled all over the world, but consider Aruba one of their top destinations to visit. Recently they were presented with the Goodwill Ambassador certificate by Mr. Jonathan Boekhoudt from Aruba Tourism Authority as a token of appreciation for their loyalty. The ceremony was held at the La Cabana in the presence of Ms. Sharine Charles from Members Relations Departments. The Gannon's love Aruba es-



pecially for the picturesque Eagle Beach and the satisfaction they have received as longtime owners at the La Cabana. The Disbrow's honored at the Occidental

Vincent and Donna Disbrow from Belleville, NJ were recently honored at the Occidental with the Goodwill Ambassador certificate. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of a appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for between 10 and 20 years consecutive. They have been visiting

Aruba since the 90's and love the island especially for the culture, weather, people, atmosphere and convenience.

Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald hon-

ored at the Aruba Beach Club

James and Frances Fitzgerald first visited Aruba in 1983, over 30 years ago and fell in love with the island. Recently they were presented by Mr. Jonathan Boekhoudt with the Goodwill Ambassador certificate to as a token of appreciation for their loyalty. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism. The ceremony was held at the Aruba Beach Club in the presence of Ms. Kenia Brito from Guesat Relations. The Fitzgerald's love Aruba especially for the people, weather, restaurants and new friends!





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Oklahoma City Thunder guard Reggie Jackson (15) dunks in front of Golden State Warriors center Festus Ezeli (31) in the second quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014.

NBA ROUNDUP

Speights scores 28 as Warriors hold off Thunder

By **CLIFF BRUNT**
AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Marreese Speights scored 28 points to help the Golden State Warriors beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 91-86 on Sunday night.

It matched the second-highest scoring game of Speights' career and was his best total since 2009.

Klay Thompson scored 20 points and Stephen Curry added 15 for the Warriors (10-2), who won despite shooting a season-low 35.5 percent from the field. Thompson and Curry, two of the top 10 scorers in the league, combined to make just 11 of 35 shots.

Reggie Jackson had 22 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists, and Anthony Morrow added 16 points and matched a career high with 12 rebounds for Oklahoma City. Serge Ibaka scored 16 points, but shot just 5 of 17 for the Thunder (3-13), who lost their sixth in a row.

Continued on page 20

WILD, WILD (NFC) WEST



Seahawks shut down Cardinals

Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson (3) slides after carrying the ball to a first down as Arizona Cardinals' Rashad Johnson moves in in the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014, in Seattle. The Seahawks won 19-3. Associated Press
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Ko gets record haul by winning LPGA finale

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

NAPLES, Florida (AP) — New Zealand teenager Lydia Ko ended her rookie year on the LPGA Tour with the biggest payoff in women's golf. Ko won the \$1 million bonus from the inaugural "Race to CME Globe" on Sunday by getting into a three-way playoff. Then, the 17-year-

old added an extra \$500,000 when she defeated Carlota Ciganda of Spain on the fourth extra hole at Tiburon Golf Club to win the CME Group Tour Championship. Ko made par all five times she played the 18th hole on Sunday, and the last one paid handsomely. "It's been an awesome week, and a week that

I'll never forget," Ko said. "When I saw that \$1 million in the box, I was like, 'Wow, I wonder who the winner of that will be?' It's amazing. I've never seen that much cash in one place before." Only the tournament earnings counted toward the money list. The \$500,000 from her third victory of the year made Ko the first LPGA



Lydia Ko of New Zealand reacts to winning on hole 18, Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014 at the Tiburon Golf Club at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort in Naples, Fla. Today marked the final round of the LPGA's CME Group Tour Championship.

Associated Press

Tour rookie to surpass \$2 million in one season.

Ciganda and Julieta Granada of Paraguay certainly helped Ko's cause.

Granada, who closed with a 1-under 71, was the first to exit the playoff when she three-putted from just off the 18th green. Her 5-foot par putt spun in and out of the cup.

Ciganda, who shot a 70, had two good chances to win. She missed a 3-foot birdie on the 17th hole in regulation that would have given her the lead. She also missed a 5-foot birdie putt on No. 18 in the third playoff hole for the victory.

On the fourth time at No. 18 in the playoff, Ciganda pulled her approach from the fairway and watched it bounce down a slope and into the hazard.

"What the ..." Ciganda said, without finishing the sentence as her shot sailed toward trouble.

She took a penalty drop and chipped to 3 feet. Ko needed only two putts for the win, and her first putt stopped an inch from going in. No matter. The kid was a winner again, her fifth LPGA Tour title before her 18th birthday. She was an amateur when she won her first two LPGA titles.

Ko wasn't the only big winner in the LPGA Tour finale. Stacy Lewis never had a

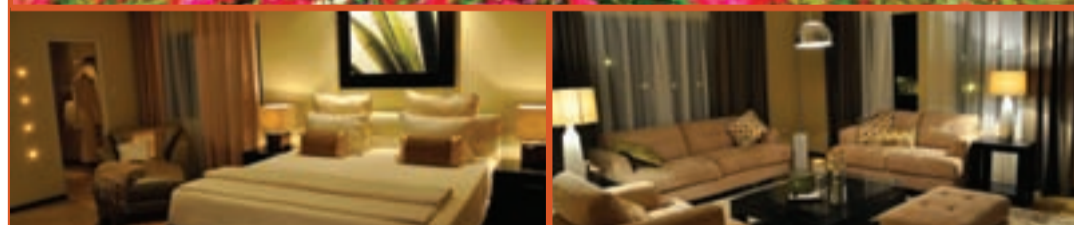
chance to win the tournament or the \$1 million bonus, though she walked away with her own slice of history. Lewis became the first American in 21 years to sweep the three most significant awards on the LPGA Tour — player of the year, the Vare Trophy for the lowest scoring average and the money title.

"The \$1 million would have been nice," Lewis said after a 71 to tie for ninth place. "But those three, that's what I came here for."

Ko had a 68-68 weekend, and she established herself quickly on another blustery day with three birdies in eight holes to take the lead. She hit her approach to 3 feet on the 13th and looked as though she might pull away.

Ciganda made back-to-back birdies on the 13th and 14th holes to join Ko at 10-under par, and Granada chipped in on the 15th for birdie to make it a three-some. They finished at 10-under 278 to force the third straight playoff on the LPGA Tour.

The LPGA decided to use one hole for the playoff — the 18th hole, which yielded only four birdies all week. True to form, victory went to the player who didn't make a mistake. Then again, Ko didn't do much wrong in a rookie season like no other. □



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Pressure builds on Mayweather after Pacquiao win

TIM DAHLBERG
AP Boxing Writer

MACAU (AP) — Manny Pacquiao is done taking the high road, tired of pretending he doesn't care. At long last he has Floyd Mayweather Jr. right where he wants him. And this time he's not about to let him slip away without a fight.

"I think it's time to say something," Pacquiao said Sunday after dispatching Chris Algieri in convincing fashion in this Chinese casino town. "The fans deserve that fight. It's time to make that fight happen."

Whether it actually happens, of course, depends on Mayweather agreeing to sign on the bottom line. And for the better part of five years now, Mayweather has given one excuse after another when it comes to making the one fight boxing fans really want.

He thought Pacquiao might be on steroids, and refused to deal with his promoter. When Pacquiao got knocked out by Juan Manuel Marquez, Mayweather said it wasn't worth his time to even mention his name. But now Mayweather may be boxed into a corner for a number of reasons and from a number of angles. The pressure will be on to make the fight sometime in the first half of next year or forever draw the wrath of the fans who contribute to his massive paychecks.

And suddenly the prospect of boxing's richest fight ever doesn't seem like such a far-fetched fantasy after all.

"Answer the telephone, it's as simple as that," promoter Bob Arum said when asked what it would take to make the fight. "If boxing is to be considered a major sport then the fight has to happen. The nonsense needs to cease. There are



WBO welterweight champion Manny Pacquiao celebrates after defeating WBO junior welterweight champion Chris Algieri of the U.S. during their welterweight title boxing match at the Venetian Macao in Macau, Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014.

Associated Press

no excuses anymore." Mayweather opened the door ever so slightly to the fight after his win over Marcos Maidana in September, saying that he might be open to the possibility of a fight. "If the Pacquiao fight happens, it happens," Mayweather said. "You can ask the same questions and get the same answers. I call my own shots."

There remain a number of obstacles to actually making a fight, though, not least is Mayweather's willingness to risk his unblemished mark near the end of his career. There are issues with promoters, TV contracts, purse splits and even legacies.

But Arum has been in exploratory talks with Les Moonves, the head of CBS Corp., which owns the Showtime network that Mayweather is contractu-

ally obligated to for two more fights.

And the fact is that both fighters have pretty much run out of opponents that boxing fans will pay good money for pay-per-view to see. That wouldn't be the case in a megafight that would break all records and make both fighters paydays far more than the \$20 million to 30 million they've routinely been getting for fights.

"I get asked about it wherever I go," Arum said of a Pacquiao-Mayweather fight. "If I'm on a plane the person next to me will ask me. I go to the restroom, and the attendant asks me."

Neither fighter is the same as he was five years ago, when the clamor first began for the fight. Age has taken a toll, if ever so slight-

ly, on their reflexes and speed.

But they both have plenty left, as Pacquiao showed when he knocked Algieri down six times on his way to a decision so lopsided that they were measuring it in terms of touchdowns and field goals.

"The man is exactly what he was billed as," Algieri said after Pacquiao cut short his Rocky story in front of Sylvester Stallone himself. "He's a great champion and one of the great fighters of his era."

Algieri's game plan was to weather the storm early against Pacquiao and try to win the fight late, but he did not implement it well. Algieri ran most of the fight and was unwilling to exchange with Pacquiao, and was out of the bout before it reached the

fourth round.

It was a signature win for Pacquiao, one he needed badly. His own plan was to show he still has power after going five years without a knockout and he kept putting Algieri down even if he could not finally put him away.

Afterward, Pacquiao stood in the ring and mimicked a Foot Locker commercial he stars in, where he jumps up and down and excitedly cries out "He's going to fight me? Yes! Yes!"

Not so fast, maybe. A lot of things would still have to happen to make the fight actually happen. The chances of it falling apart are still greater than it coming together.

But it may be time for boxing fans to start getting at least a little bit excited, too.

NBA Roundup

Continued from page 17

Curry was fouled with 16 seconds left and the Warriors up by two. Curry, who had made 47 of his first 49 free throws this season, missed the first and made the second to give Golden State an 89-86 lead.

Jackson drove and found Andre Roberson, who missed everything on an open 3-pointer. Thompson was fouled and made two free throws with 5.7 seconds remaining to put away the game.

Jackson was fouled on a drive and right-handed dunk, and he made the free throw with just over a minute left in the second quarter to cut what had been a 10-point Warriors lead to two. Thompson responded with a 3-pointer, and Golden State led 52-47 at halftime.

Neither team scored in the second half until 9:12 remained in the third quarter, and the first field goal



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) shoots in front of Oklahoma City Thunder guard Reggie Jackson (15) in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014.

Associated Press

came with 7:31 left in the period.

A reverse layup and a floater by Jackson tied the game at 65. The Thunder took their first lead on a free throw by Morrow after a technical foul against Golden State coach Steve Kerr. A three-point play by Speights with 2.5 seconds left in the third quarter gave the Warriors a 70-

66 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

HEAT 94, HORNETS 93 MIAMI (AP) - So much intrigue, crammed into 14 seconds. A pair of former Connecticut stars, going 1-on-1 as if they were willing to decide it themselves. A one-point game, one team about to end a losing streak and a tip-in try that added more drama with

every bounce off the rim. "Definitely an experience," Luol Deng said. For the Miami Heat, a welcomed one.

Deng scored 26 points, Chris Bosh and Mario Chalmers each added 20 and the Heat watched Charlotte miss three potential go-ahead shots in the final seconds on the way to beating the Hornets 94-93 on Sunday night and snapping a three-game home slide.

"It was a good step," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. Chalmers had 10 assists for his second double-double of the season and Shabazz Napier scored 14 for the Heat.

Al Jefferson finished with 22 points and 12 rebounds for Charlotte, which got 17 points from Lance Stephenson and 16 from Kemba Walker but wound up seeing its skid reach five games. The Hornets trailed by nine at the half and then led by as many as eight in the fourth, before Miami rallied.

"The stretch of games we've played has definitely taken their toll on our confidence," Hornets coach Steve Clifford said.

Working from the right side of the lane, Bosh spun free from Cody Zeller and scored from the right baseline to give Miami a 94-93 lead with 31 seconds remaining.

That's when the fun started. Walker missed with 26 seconds left and Charlotte down by one. The Heat got the rebound and the Hornets appeared to be trying to foul Chalmers near mid-court.

No foul was called, the ball got knocked away and after a deflection out of bounds the Hornets had possession with 14 seconds remaining. Walker went at Napier - UConn great vs. UConn great - and missed a short jumper, Jefferson got a good try at the tip, and the ball bounced off the rim as the horn sounded.

"I got a pretty good look," Walker said.

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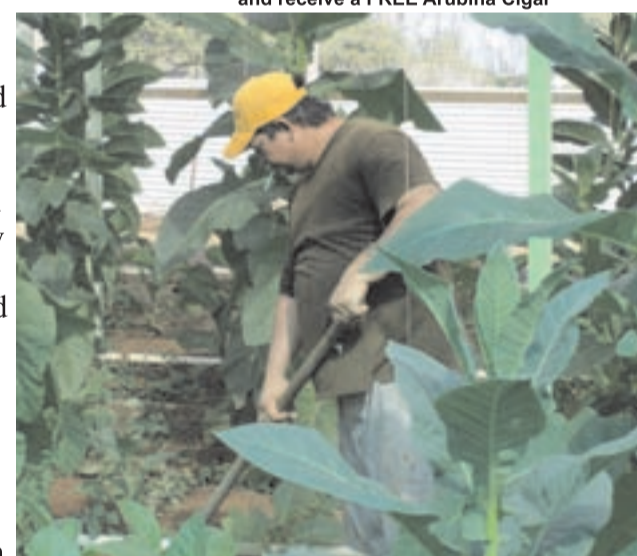


ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers

Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the RIO Hotel, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also

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NFL Capsules

Wilson, Seattle D lead Seahawks past Arizona 19-3

The Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Russell Wilson found backup tight end Cooper Helfet for a 20-yard catch-and-run touchdown late in the third quarter, Steven Hauschka kicked four field goals as the Seattle Seahawks handed the Arizona Cardinals their second loss of the season, 19-3 on Sunday.

Wilson was sacked a season-high seven times by Arizona's ultra-aggressive defense and the assortment of blitzes they called to confuse and fluster the Seahawks quarterback. But when Seattle (7-4) needed a scoring drive, after squandering advantageous field position throughout the game, Wilson delivered.

The victory was a must for Seattle if it had any hopes of getting back into the division race. The Seahawks entered the day trailing Arizona (9-2) by three games in the NFC West.

Arizona was held to a season-low 204 total yards. A week after throwing for a career-high 306 yards, Drew Stanton was 14 of 26 for 149 and one interception.

BRONCOS 39, DOLPHINS 36
DENVER (AP) — Peyton Manning threw three of his four TD passes to Demaryius Thomas and C.J. Anderson ran for 167 yards and the go-ahead score in the Denver Broncos' win over the Miami Dolphins.

Anderson's 6-yard run with 5:01 left gave the Broncos (8-3) their first lead of the game at 32-28. T.J. Ward's 37-yard interception return of Ryan Tannehill's pass set up Wes Welker's insurance TD catch.

The Broncos needed it after Tannehill drove the Dolphins (6-5) on another

scoring drive, hitting Jarvis Landry from a yard out with 1:34 left. Lamar Miller's 2-point dive made it a 3-point game.

The Dolphins' onside kick was recovered by — who else? — Anderson, who sealed the game with a 26-yard run. Anderson, who had 27 carries, also caught four passes for 38 yards.

Manning became the third player in NFL history with touchdown passes in 50 consecutive games, joining Drew Brees (54) and

with 44 seconds remaining to seize the lead.

But Hoyer completed four straight passes, the last of them to the Falcons 19, and spiked the ball with 5 seconds left. Cundiff trotted on and made his fourth field goal of the game for the Browns (7-4).

Atlanta (4-7), coming in improbably tied for first in the woeful NFC South, dropped to 0-7 against teams outside the division. Isaiah Crowell scored a pair of touchdowns for

found wide-open receivers while the Lions struggled on offense. For the second straight game, Detroit failed to score a touchdown.

New England (9-2) routed a division leader for the third consecutive game, following wins over Denver and Indianapolis. Detroit (7-4) lost for the second straight week against a conference leader after falling to Arizona 14-6 last Sunday.

LeGarrette Blount rushed

highs to help Aaron Rodgers as the Green Bay Packers hang on against the Minnesota Vikings.

Lacy scored twice, on a run in the first quarter and a catch in the fourth. Then, he rumbled through the line for two first downs to drain the clock after the Vikings (4-7) cut the lead to three with 3:23 remaining. Rodgers threw two touchdown passes and again avoided a turnover for the Packers (8-3), who stayed out of a potential trap against a struggling team with a game next week against surging New England. They also moved past Detroit into sole possession of first place in the NFC North when the Lions lost to the Patriots.

Charles Johnson and Greg Jennings caught touchdown passes from Teddy Bridgewater, who finished 21 for 37 for 210 yards and an interception.

EAGLES 43, TITANS 24

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Josh Huff returned the opening kickoff 107 yards and LeSean McCoy ran for 130 yards as the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Tennessee Titans. Huff's return was the longest in franchise history and the 10th non-offensive touchdown for Philadelphia this season.

Mark Sanchez threw for 307 yards and one touchdown in his third start for the injured Nick Foles. He has 300 yards passing in three straight games, tying a team record.

Now, the Eagles (8-3) can shift their focus to the Dallas Cowboys (7-3) for a first-place showdown on Thanksgiving. The top two teams in the NFC East will play twice in 18 days, starting with Thursday's game at Dallas. □



Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson makes a long run to out of bounds near the end zone that was called back on a holding penalty in the first half of an NFL football game against the Arizona Cardinals, Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014, in Seattle.

Tom Brady (52). He completed 28 of 35 passes for 257 yards and no interceptions on a cool Colorado evening.

BROWNS 26, FALCONS 24
ATLANTA (AP) — Brian Hoyer shook off three interceptions, leading the Cleveland Browns down the field in the final minute to set up Billy Cundiff's 37-yard field goal as time expired to beat the Atlanta Falcons.

Taking advantage of the last of Hoyer's picks, the Falcons drove for Matt Bryant's 53-yard field goal

the Browns, who also were bolstered by the return of Josh Gordon. He had eight catches for 120 yards.

PATRIOTS 34, LIONS 9
FOXBOROUGH, Mass.
setts (AP) — Tom Brady threw for 349 yards and two touchdowns in a pass-heavy offense against the NFL's stingiest rushing defense as the New England Patriots stretched their winning streak to seven games with a victory over the Detroit Lions.

The Patriots led 24-6 at half-time as Brady repeatedly

for 78 yards and two touchdowns three days after signing with New England after being cut by Pittsburgh. In the win over the Colts, the Patriots stuck with the running game as Jonas Gray rushed 37 times for 201 yards and four touchdowns. After being sent home from Friday's practice for reporting late, he didn't play at all on Sunday.

PACKERS 24, VIKINGS 21
MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Eddie Lacy rushed for 125 yards on 25 carries, both season

Associated Press

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Hamilton answers Rosberg in style to clinch title

JEROME PUGMIRE

AP Sports Writer

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) —

Lewis Hamilton answered Nico Rosberg's pre-race goading in defiant style, winning the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix on Sunday as he clinched a second Formula One title and denied his brash-talking Mercedes teammate his first.

The days leading up to the race saw an upbeat Rosberg talking openly about how he fully intended to make Hamilton crack under pressure.

That resulted in the onus to deliver falling on Rosberg — Hamilton's childhood friend and teenage go-karting rival — and match his pre-race fighting talk with equally aggressive driving.

It never happened, and the German driver's dismal race saw him place a lowly 14th after he failed to recover from a poor start. Hamilton, the 2008 F1 champion, entered the race with a 17-point lead over his rival, needing only a top-two finish to guarantee the title.

But he was never even tested and the highly anticipated duel under floodlights never happened.



Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain celebrates with his teammates on the pit lane after winning the Abu Dhabi Formula One Grand Prix at the Yas Marina racetrack in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014.

"Wooooooo-hoooooo, world champion I can't believe it! Thank you so much guys," Hamilton screamed over race radio, before grabbing a Union Jack flag and waving it above his car as his mechanics celebrated wildly.

"It's hard to soak all of this up. So much pressure," the 29-year-old Hamilton said. "I didn't sleep last night. I went for a run and had a massage, I thought I would be tired, but somehow I felt

composed for the race." He kept his helmet on for several minutes, appearing to wipe away tears, as the emotion of his hard-fought championship win started to sink in.

"This has been an incredible year," Hamilton said. "It feels very surreal, like an out-of-body experience, like it's not really happening."

Standing watching in the Mercedes garage, Britain's Prince Harry told him he

was a "legend" and the emotion got to Hamilton, who described how he sat on a beach the night before the race, texting his father, Anthony Hamilton, and urging him to attend the race.

The elder Hamilton responded to his son's call.

"One thing I want to say is a big huge 'Thank You' to all the fans, to my family. I love you guys," Hamilton said. "This is the greatest day of my life — 2008 was a spe-

cial day but this is way, way beyond that."

As a dejected Rosberg climbed out of his car, Hamilton rushed over to hug his girlfriend Nicole Scherzinger, who was in tears as she gave him a kiss. Rosberg started from pole position and, with double points on offer, could have won the title providing Hamilton finished third or lower. "It is a pity it did not work out," Rosberg said. "It's been very intense, a very special weekend for me." Brazilian driver Felipe Massa crossed the line in second place ahead of his Williams teammate Valtteri Bottas, while Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo drove superbly to finish fourth despite starting from the back of the grid alongside teammate Sebastian Vettel, who finished eighth.

In total, Hamilton scored 384 points, with Rosberg notching 317 and Ricciardo third with 238.

Although it was a one-sided race, the season was a welcome drivers' contest after Vettel beat Fernando Alonso by 155 points last year. Mercedes, however, crushed the competition out of sight, winning 16 of 19 races and securing 18 poles.



In this Nov. 22, 2014 photo, Joey Chestnut, center, and the other eaters participate in the World Turkey-Eating Championship at Foxwoods Resort and Casino in Mashantucket, Conn.

Associated Press

Joey Chestnut devours turkey to win eating contest

MASHANTUCKET, Connecticut (AP) — Competitive eater Joey Chestnut has won a turkey-eating contest in Connecticut, setting a record by devouring an entire bird.

Ten contestants vied to see who could eat the most of a 20-pound (9-kilogram) turkey in a competition Sat-

urday at Foxwoods Resort Casino.

Chestnut ate 9.35 pounds (4.24 kilograms) of meat off the bone in 10 minutes. According to Major League Eating, the food equivalent of the National Football League, he bested the previous record, which was held by Sonya Thomas, who ate 5.25 pounds (2.38

kilograms) of turkey in November 2011.

Chestnut, a San Jose, California, resident who turns 31 on Tuesday, is ranked the top competitive eater in the world.

Chestnut took home a \$5,000 check. The remainder of the \$10,000 purse was divided among other contestants.

Roger Federer's Switzerland wins Davis Cup final

SAMUEL PETREQUIN

AP Sports Writer

LILLE, France (AP) — Roger Federer has now claimed all the big prizes on offer in tennis and, for once, will be happy to share his latest trophy with others.

Federer ended a week of uncertainty about his aging back with a vintage performance to give Switzerland an emphatic victory over France and its maiden Davis Cup. His 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 victory over Richard Gasquet in the first reverse singles on Sunday sealed an unassailable 3-1 lead. That also proved to be the final result as the dead rubber between Gael Monfils and Stan Wawrinka wasn't played. It took 15 years for the former top-ranked Federer to achieve Davis Cup success after making his debut in the event in 1999. No wonder he looked so emotional after converting his first match point, falling to his knees and lying face down on the court before hugging team captain Severin Luthi and his teammates. "At the end, it's a tennis match, you feel great emotions. You're unbelievably happy and re-



The Swiss team celebrates at the cup after defeating France in the Davis Cup final at the Pierre Mauroy stadium in Lille, northern France, Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014. Switzerland won 3-1 and wins the Davis Cup. From the left: Swiss coach Severin Luthi, players Roger Federer, Stanislas Wawrinka, Marco Chiudinelli, and Michael Lammer.

lieved," said a joyful Federer. "We wanted this clearly very badly, especially being up 2-1. You inch yourself closer and closer. Clearly seeing Stan out there, the rest of the team supporting you, gives you an extra push. It was definitely one of the better feelings in my career, no doubt about it.

So much nicer to celebrate it all together."

After pulling out of the final of the ATP World Tour Finals in London last Sunday, Federer's participation against the French looked in doubt. He hit a ball for the first time on the indoor clay court on Wednesday evening and was a shad-

ow of his former self when he was thrashed by Monfils in Friday's singles.

His form rapidly improved, though, and he was back to his best during Saturday's doubles win with Wawrinka that gave the Swiss a 2-1 lead.

Federer, who adopted a low profile all week, was full

of praise for Wawrinka.

His teammate stepped out of Federer's formidable shadow earlier this year with victory at the Australian Open. He has also been a dedicated Davis Cup player in recent years, while Federer often focused on his personal career. In 2013, Wawrinka led Switzerland to victory in a World Group play-off in the absence of Federer, giving his country a shot at the trophy this year. He also won Switzerland's first point this weekend by beating Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

"I'm very much aware of that, this one is for the boys. It's not for me. I've won enough in my career and did not need to tick any empty boxes. I'm just happy for everybody else. I'm happy we could live a great tennis historic moment in our country."

Federer, who spent 302 weeks at the top of the game, shed a few tears before receiving his trophy and enjoying a lap of honor with his teammates. But emotions were not as strong as they were when he won his first Grand Slam title in Wimbledon in 2003.

Associated Press



In this May 4, 2014, file photo, Stacy Lewis is congratulated by fans after winning the North Texas LPGA Shootout golf tournament at the Las Colinas Country Club in Irving, Texas.

Associated Press.

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

NAPLES, Fla. (AP) — Stacy Lewis became the first American in 21 years to sweep the three biggest awards on the LPGA Tour, which she considered more valuable than a \$1 million bonus.

Lewis closed with a 1-under 71 in the CME Group

Tour Championship on Sunday, tied for ninth in the LPGA Tour finale. But it was enough for her to win LPGA Tour player of the year for the second time in three seasons. She also won the Vare Trophy for the lowest scoring average and the money title.

The last American to sweep the awards was Betsy King

Stacy Lewis sweeps 3 biggest LPGA awards

in 1993.

"The \$1 million would have been nice," said Lewis, who was six shots out of a playoff. "But those three, that's what I came here for.

... It's been hard to play the last four days, and it's nice to be done. I didn't have my best stuff. I'm pretty surprised to finish where I did." Two years ago, the 29-year-old Lewis became the first American since Beth Daniel to win the points-based player of the year. She added the Vare Trophy a year ago. And on Sunday, she collected all three at the same time.

Inbee Park, the No. 1 in the world, was the only player who could have kept Lewis from the awards. She

trailed in all of them, but struggled all week at Tiburón Golf Club and finished in a tie for 24th, four shots worse than Lewis.

Lewis finished atop the money list with \$2,539,039, more than \$300,000 over Park. Her scoring average was 69.532, while Park was second at 69.682. Michelle Wie was third in the Vare Trophy standings (69.818), followed by So Yeon Ryu at 69.978.

It was the first time in LPGA history that four women had a sub-70 scoring average.

Lewis felt as much stress this week as at any major, mainly because Park was on a roll and Lewis was struggling. She received

one good omen Saturday night when her family ordered Chinese food and her father tossed her a fortune cookie.

Lewis kept it in her pocket during the final day of the tournament and read it aloud to the media when she was done: "Good news of long-awaited event will arrive soon."

"The last couple of weeks have been tough," Lewis said.

"The game hasn't been exactly where I wanted it to be.

I figured (Park would) keep it rolling this week, and I knew I needed to find something. It was probably four of the hardest rounds of golf I've ever played."

Obama immigration plan good, not great for economy

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama's expansive executive action on immigration is good for the U.S. economy — just not as good as partnering with Congress on broader reforms.

The executive order signed Friday would prevent the deportation of about 4 million parents and guardians who lack the same legal status as their children. By gaining work permits, they will likely command higher wages, move more easily between jobs and boost government tax revenues, according to multiple economic analyses.

"This is focused on people who are already in the economy today, who are contributing mightily but are basically operating in the shadows," said Raul Hinojosa-Ojeda, a professor at the University of California, Los Angeles. "Their economic potential is being held back."

The new order could boost labor income by \$6.8 billion, helping to generate 160,000 new jobs and \$2.5 billion in additional tax revenues, according to estimates by Hinojosa-Ojeda. The findings dovetail with separate research showing that a 1986 amnesty measure raised incomes for illegal workers in the years that followed. Still, any gains from the executive action would be modest in the \$17 trillion U.S. economy.

White House officials estimate that the executive order would expand gross domestic product less than 0.1 percent a year over the next decades.

Along with the Congressional Budget Office, independent economists say growth would be much stronger with a broader overhaul that would more than dou-

ble the number of illegal workers eligible for legalized status, in addition to reforms that would attract high-skilled immigrant workers who are more likely to lead and found new companies.

billion — for the next two decades, according to an analysis that Prakken contributed to last year for the Bipartisan Policy Center. The reforms could also cut the federal debt by \$1.2 trillion

Obama's plan does not raise the current annual limit of 65,000 so-called "H-1B" visas for skilled workers, although he promised to streamline some of the rules governing them. Scientists, engineers

enough to entrepreneurs who want to create value for the American economy," Galarza said. "I'm glad if (Obama) is able to help those 5 million people, but he needs to focus on the issue of tech workers and foreign entrepreneurs as well." Groups such as the Center for Immigration Studies have critiqued the benefits of adding immigrants, noting that many U.S. citizens are still searching for work more than five years after the Great Recession ended. By giving these workers legal status, it will inevitably help their earnings prospects but do little for the rest of the economy, said Steven Camarota, the organization's research director.

But the business community disagrees, saying they need immigrants in order to expand their operations.

In response to Obama's executive action, Buffalo Wings & Rings estimates it would be able to add five restaurants to its more than 45 franchised outlets. "For us, it's an opportunity," said Philip Schram, executive vice president of development at the Cincinnati-based chain.

A 2013 survey by the advocacy group Small Business Majority showed 84 percent of small business owners are in favor of immigration reform. Owners believe it will help them have a more stable workforce, especially in industries like agriculture, hotels and restaurants, said the group's CEO, John Arensmeyer. The obstacle has been that jobs in agriculture don't appeal to people born in the United States, so Jim Gilbert, owner of Northwoods Nursery in Molalla, Oregon, hires immigrants to tend to the plants he grows and sells.

"There are not enough people to do the jobs we need to do," Gilbert said. □



In this Nov. 7, 2014 file photo, people rally for comprehensive immigration reform outside the White House in Washington. Conservative Republicans want to drag must-pass spending bills into their fight with President Barack Obama over his planned executive action on immigration, inviting comparisons to last year's shutdown showdown over the health care law. In the Senate, Jeff Sessions of Alabama and Mike Lee of Utah are among those arguing to use an upcoming must-pass spending bill — either in December or next year — to try to block Obama from taking unilateral action to protect millions of immigrants here illegally from deportation.

Associated Press

The Senate passed a measure last year to fix the immigration system, but it stalled in the Republican-majority House that favored a step-by-step approach. The CBO estimated the Senate-backed reform would have added another 0.33 percent annually to GDP growth.

The president's order "falls short of a comprehensive reform that would have a more sweeping effect on the economic landscape," said Joel Prakken of the forecasting firm Macroeconomic Advisers.

More substantial reforms could lift economic growth by an additional 0.24 percent a year — or about \$41

over the same period, increase home construction, lift wages and add 8.3 million workers to the economy. A broader overhaul would also create a framework for attracting more immigrants, which would mute the negative economic impacts of an aging population. As more Americans retire, the percentage of the population with jobs has slipped, limiting the ability of the economy to expand.

But the executive order would do little to promote additional immigration, nor would it fully address the concerns of technology companies looking for high-skilled foreigners.

and computer programmers all earn higher wages than the comparatively low-paid workers who would be helped by Obama. Silicon Valley entrepreneur Mike Galarza knows the issue first hand. A native of Mexico, he described a daunting bureaucratic obstacle course to obtain a visa that allowed him to launch Entryless, an online business accounting startup, last year in Menlo Park, California. Now he's struggling to find talent. Galarza said he recently lost a job candidate with a Ph.D. in computer science because there were no more H-1B visas available.

"The U.S. is not welcoming

Justin Timberlake becomes co-owner of audio tech company

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Justin Timberlake wants to make sure you have a 20/20 sound experience when you listen to music: He's now a co-owner of the audio technology company AfterMaster Audio Labs, Inc.

AfterMaster, a subsidiary

of Studio One Media Inc., announced Wednesday that the Grammy-winning pop star will join the company, which focuses on enhancing and re-mastering audio quality. Its website showcases examples of songs pre- and post-AfterMaster enhancement, including Michael Jackson's "Thriller" and Taylor

Swift's "Shake It Off."

"I'm thrilled to be a part of this groundbreaking company," Timberlake said in a statement. "The first time I heard audio, post AfterMaster, I knew that I had to be a part of this company and that we had something revolutionary on our hands."

The 33-year-old Timber-

lake joins the company's founders, CEO Larry Ryckman and chief engineer Shelly Yakus. Ryckman and Yakus launched the audio technology company QSound along with Jimmy Iovine in 1986.

"Justin is an audiophile. He really understands quality audio," Ryckman said in an interview. "We've

worked with the world's biggest artists, and not all of them have a focus on audio quality on their own; they look to their producers and their engineers. Justin loves technology, completely understands audio and he's very powerful and respected in the entertainment community." □

Health care M&A leads global deal surge

**LINDA A. JOHNSON
STEVE ROTHWELL**
AP Business Writers

In a big year for deal making, the health care industry is a standout.

Large drugmakers are buying and selling businesses to control costs and deploy surplus cash. A rising stock market, tax strategies and low interest rates are also fueling the mergers and acquisitions.

It's all combining to make 2014 the most active year for health care deals in at least two decades. The industry has announced about \$438 billion worth of mergers and acquisitions worldwide so far, about 14 percent of the \$3.2 trillion total for all industries, according to data provider Dealogic. Overall, M&A is on track for its best year since 2007, the year before the financial crisis intensified. "Health care has been a sleepy niche of M&A until recently, but the giant has been awakened," says Ken Menges, a senior partner handling M&A at law firm Akin Gump in New York.

To a large extent, the deals are being driven by "cost pressure on the entire health care system," as insurers and government health plans increasingly hold down or even reduce reimbursements to drug, device and service pro-

viders, says Ashtyn Evans, pharmaceutical and biotech analyst with investment firm Edward Jones in St. Louis, Missouri.

Companies also are looking to expand market share, and boost their portfolios in hot areas such as drugs for cancer and hepatitis C, she says.

Drugmaker Merck & Co., for example, agreed in June to pay nearly \$4 billion for Idenix Pharmaceuticals Inc. to combine that company's hepatitis C medicines with its own.

Taxes are another reason behind the rush to the negotiating table.

Some big, U.S. pharmaceutical, biotech and medical device companies have been trying to acquire overseas rivals, allowing them to move their headquarters to a country with a lower tax rate. The deals also give the buyer access to billions in overseas profits to invest in research and development, without having to bring those profits back to the U.S. and pay taxes on them.

Medical device maker Medtronic's \$43 billion acquisition in June of Covidien, a Dublin, Ireland-based rival, is an example.

For customers, this year's deal making has both benefits and drawbacks.

Patients could see a slight increase in new medicines



In this Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013 photo, Merck scientist Janet Lineberger conducts research to discover new HIV drugs in West Point, Pa.

and devices over time. That's because bigger companies typically have more money to spend on developing treatments, and have more experience navigating the difficult process of getting products approved by regulators. But patients could also have fewer doctor and hospital options as companies combine to lower costs.

For employees, the mergers could mean some job losses in areas such as administration and sales, but not in research at drugmakers. Losses at health care providers would be minimal, if any.

The frenzy of health care M&A has been good for stocks.

Mergers tend to boost share prices in general. That's because the ac-

quiring company typically pays a premium over the market value of the target stock to ensure that the deal wins approval from shareholders.

The health care sector has surged 23 percent this year, making it the best-performing industry group in the Standard & Poor's 500 index and putting it on track to outperform the broader market for the fourth straight year.

Private equity firms are investing in small biotech and pharmaceutical companies needing billions for research and development. In return, private equity hopes to profit through initial public offerings of the companies they invest in, or by selling them to bigger rivals.

Big hospitals also have been doing their own

deals, snapping up related businesses. That includes a surge in hospitals buying "mom-and-pop" doctors' practices and outpatient clinics to feed new patients into their system, says David Hillman, a partner at law firm Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP.

All health care companies — from nursing homes to drugmakers — are under pressure to keep costs down in today's market, says Bob Laszewski of Health Policy and Strategy Associates, an adviser to health companies.

"That in turn leads to ... combinations to make organizations more expense efficient, combinations for more economies of scale, people buying up smaller organizations that have developed an ability to deliver niche products." □

U.S. company introduces odor-eating toilet seat

M.L. JOHNSON
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Blow out the scented candle and ditch the aerosol spray can.

The Kohler Co. has introduced a deodorizing toilet seat that it says eliminates embarrassing bathroom odors and the need for candles and sprays to cover them up.

A fan hidden in the battery-operated seat sucks

in air and pushes it through an odor-eating carbon filter, followed by an optional scent pack. Product manager Jerry Bougher said the idea is to attack smells "where the action is."

The \$90 seat is one of many high-tech gadgets that Wisconsin-based Kohler and its competitors have introduced in recent years to make time spent in the bathroom more

pleasant. When it comes to toilets, consumers can get seats with features such as slow-closing lids, heat and nightlights that typically add \$20 to \$100 to the cost.

Kohler sees deodorizing technology as something that most consumers can connect with, Bougher said. "In terms of odor, everyone's experienced it." The seat turns on automatically when someone

sits down. The fan emits a slight hum as it filters the offending odor. The air flows over a scent pack similar to air fresheners used in cars, and the masking smell builds gradually.

Josh Pantel, 27, has a Pure-fresh seat in the Middleton home he bought about three months ago with his girlfriend, who works for Kohler.

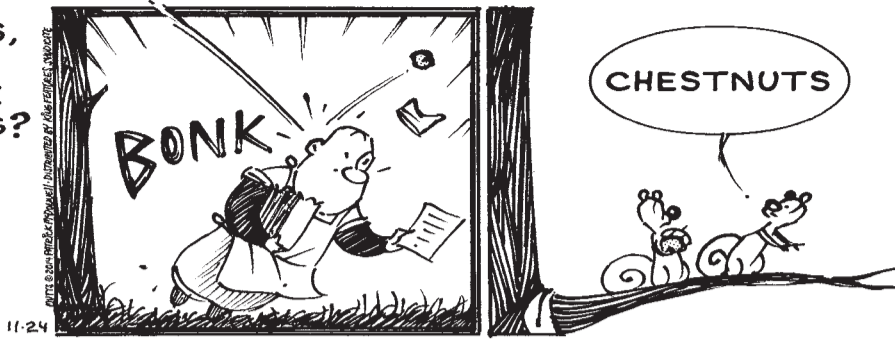
"If you have a visitor or someone at your place,

it makes them feel more comfortable using the restroom," Pantel said.

Kohler began selling the seats Nov. 10, in time for the Christmas season. They require two D batteries to operate, and Kohler says the batteries and carbon filters should last six months. The scent packs must be replaced monthly. Kohler is not the first U.S. company to make a no-smell seat. □

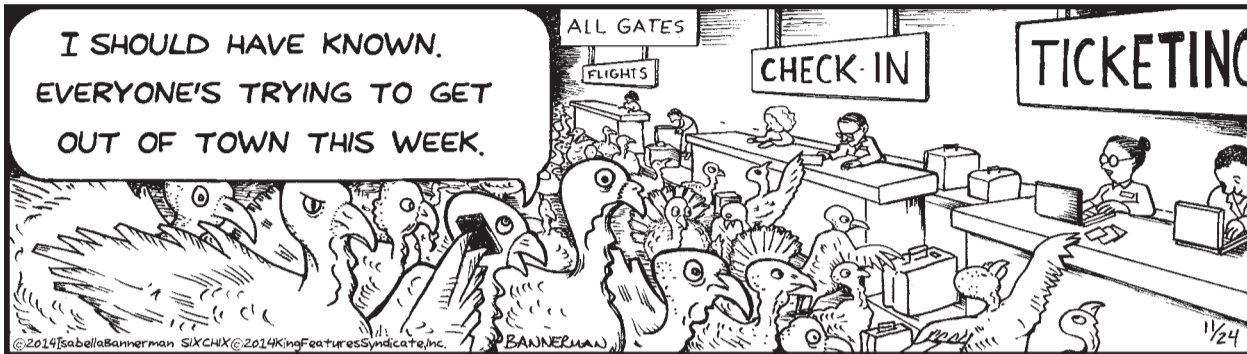
Mutts

SWEET POTATOES, CRANBERRIES, STUFFING- DID I FORGET ANYTHING?

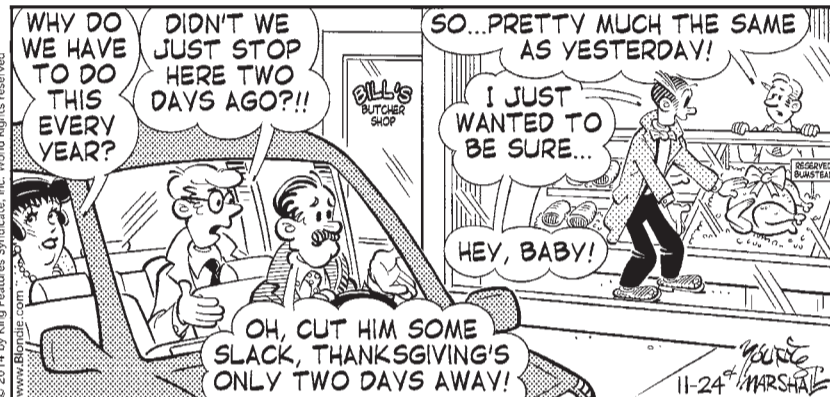
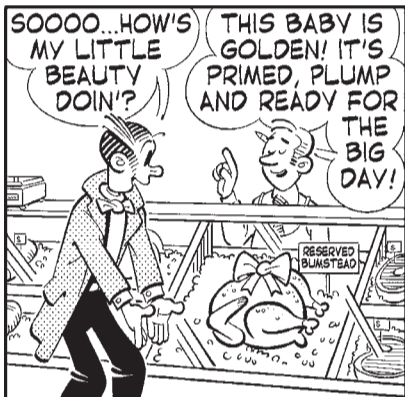


6 Chix

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN. EVERYONE'S TRYING TO GET OUT OF TOWN THIS WEEK.



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	7		4	1		2	
5			8	2			3
		8			1		
	1		5	6		7	
		6			9		
	3		7	4		6	
		5			3		
3			6	5			2
	4		3	7		1	

Difficulty Level ★

11/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

9	7	6	1	3	5	2	8	4
5	3	2	8	4	6	9	1	7
8	4	1	2	7	9	5	3	6
7	5	4	3	6	1	8	9	2
3	2	9	7	8	4	6	5	1
6	1	8	9	5	2	7	4	3
1	6	7	4	9	8	3	2	5
4	8	5	6	2	3	1	7	9
2	9	3	5	1	7	4	6	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

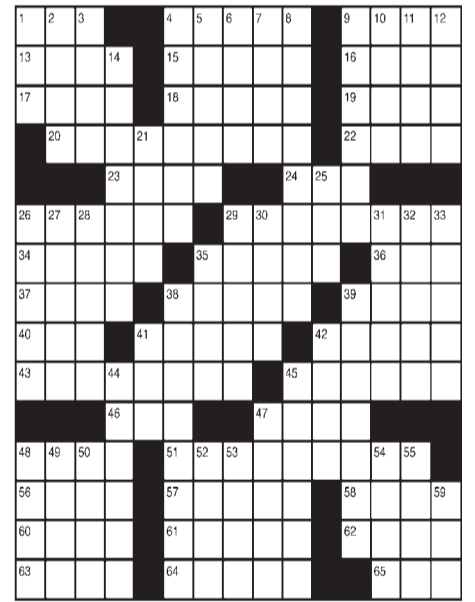
11/23

ACROSS

- Jan., Feb., Mar.,
- Heating chambers
- ___ in the face; insult
- Happiness
- Hell's ruler
- Word with zip or Morse
- Lima or fava
- Male duck
- Make ___ meet; eke out a living
- Name written on an envelope
- Bird's home
- Misplace
- Fraternity letter
- Take; receive
- Trousers
- Run after
- In ___; weeping
- BPOE member
- Geography book diagrams
- Poker "money"
- Usually dry streambed
- Blunder
- Lower leg parts
- Water barrier
- Smiling smugly
- Bishops' hats
- Actor Holbrook
- Make airtight
- Nervous
- Advanced degree
- Difficult child
- Relative by marriage
- Shipshape
- Tub activity
- Feed a furnace
- Run fast
- Flower stalk
- Was optimistic
- Pippen

DOWN

- Inventor Bell's monogram
- Tearful request
- Peruse
- Strangest
- Stanza
- Music from Jamaica
- Fib teller
- Musical beat
- Cried like a cat
- Stick pushed in the ground
- Diminishes
- Mild oath



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/24/14

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

ALMS	SLOTS	CUBA
COAT	PILOT	APES
MOLE	ENEMY	MONK
ENTREAT	ALBERTS	
ILK	STEAL	
SHELF	WHO	SOAKS
KALE	BAA	RITUAL
ILL	SURREAL	DRY
ELECTS	PAN	VIAL
SENIOR	HER	JETTY
MASON	BAH	
PROMPTS	LEGIBLE	
LOVE	UTTER	CRUX
OPEN	FEAST	LANE
TEND	FLUSH	EGGS

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11/24/14

- Music from Jamaica
- Fib teller
- Musical beat
- Cried like a cat
- Stick pushed in the ground
- Diminishes
- Mild oath
- Fence opening
- "___ bigger and better things!"
- Clippety-___
- Soothing drinks
- Vane direction
- "...and crown ___ good with brotherhood..."



Spaceport executive director Christine Anderson gives her report to members of a legislative finance oversight committee at the New Mexico State capitol on Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014. Richard Holdridge, left, chairman of the Board of Directors, Spaceport Authority appeared with Anderson. Associated Press

New Mexico spaceport sets sights on new customers

SUSAN MONTROYA BRYAN
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP) — The scramble to get everything ready for the launch of the world's first commercial flights from Spaceport America came to a screeching halt nearly a month ago when Virgin Galactic's spaceship broke up over the California desert during a test flight.

There was heartbreak, but now the New Mexico Spaceport Authority is scrambling again. This time, the focus is on drawing more tenants to the nearly \$250-million spaceport and maintaining support among state lawmakers.

Christine Anderson, the authority's executive director, learned this week she might have to do that one legislator at a time.

Anderson was called out by Rep. Patricia Lundstrom for handing members of an interim legislative finance committee a presentation filled mostly with photographs. Lundstrom and other lawmakers wanted hard numbers and more details about what plan the authority has to get past the Virgin Galactic mishap and get the taxpayer-financed spaceport off the ground.

"It just made all of us look like idiots, like we don't do our homework," Anderson said. "That's not the case whatsoever." Anderson pointed to a meeting just a month earlier with the same committee in which she testified

for six hours about what the spaceport authority has done, how much money it has spent and on what projects, how much revenue it's likely to bring and what needs to be done going forward. □

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South Africa seeks to move rhinos from harm's way

CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
Associated Press

SKUKUZA, South Africa

(AP) — The rhino crashes forward, pounding the earth with its broad feet. Then, as a dart's sedative takes hold, it staggers and slouches to the ground, where South African rangers prepare to move the oversized beast by truck to an area they hope is safe from poachers.

Kruger National Park has conducted about 45 such captures since last month, part of a plan to create a stronghold within the country's flagship reserve where rhinos will get extra protection from poachers, many of whom cross from neighboring Mozambique and are slaughtering the animals in increasing numbers. Some rhinos were moved to other parks, and the relocation "experiment," as rangers describe it, is likely to escalate next year.

Safe havens or buffer zones have been hotly debated over the years as a way to protect civilians in some of the world's major conflicts. South Africa is applying a variation of the idea to wildlife to try to stem surging demand for rhino horn. Some consumers in Asia, primarily Vietnam and China, view rhino horn as a status symbol and a healing agent despite a lack of evidence that it can cure.



In this photo taken Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014, rangers help a rhino on to its feet to be dragged to a metal cage near Skukuza, South Africa, for transport by truck to an area hopefully safe from poachers.

The horn is made of keratin, a protein also found in human fingernails.

The so-called "intensive protection zone" in the southern part of Kruger National Park took on new urgency when South Africa, home to 80 percent of the world's rhinos, announced Thursday that 1,020 rhinos have been poached so far in 2014, exceeding last year's record of 1,004.

About two-thirds of the rhinos poached this year died in Kruger, a park that's about the size of Israel and larger than the

U.S. state of Connecticut. Poachers often dodge an overstretched force of 400 rangers as well as some military units that monitor the 350-kilometer (220-mile) border between Kruger and Mozambique, and they shoot rhinos just before sunset and scoot back to Mozambique under cover of night, according to rangers. The protection zone encompasses about 5,000 square kilometers (1,900 square miles), or at least one-quarter of the park, and is already home to many of Kruger's roughly

10,000 rhinos — half the national population. Rhinos were reintroduced in southern Kruger in the 1960s after poachers had wiped them out. The goal is "to basically ensure that you've got a foundation of animals that are secure and that you can use as a source population to take elsewhere," said Markus Hofmeyr, head of veterinary services at Kruger park.

Kruger will focus aircraft, ranger teams and high-tech surveillance on the zone. The initiative is partly funded by American phi-

lanthropist Howard Buffett, a son of investor Warren Buffett who pledged nearly \$24 million to Kruger's anti-poaching efforts.

Howard Buffett has said some of the same methods used by the United States to monitor its border with Mexico will be used in Kruger, including aerostats — large, tethered balloons with infrared cameras that scan the landscape. This week, journalists watched separate operations in which two rhinos were removed from poaching "hotspots" near the Mozambique border and loaded onto trucks for transfer to the protection zone.

The animals were darted from a helicopter, which then flew low, herding them toward a road. Once the rhinos were subdued and blindfolded, rangers took blood and skin samples and installed a microchip in the horns as a way to identify Kruger's stock, all the while monitoring body temperature and even pouring water on one rhino to cool it.

The sedative must be strong enough to immobilize a rhino but weak enough so that the animal can, with men pushing and pulling it with a rope, walk into a crate. Hofmeyr said he can administer an injection that partly reverses the effect of the sedative.

Associated Press

Search continues at ancient Greek burial mound

COSTAS KANTOURIS
Associated Press

AMPHIPOLIS, Greece (AP)

— Scientists have opened the second phase of their excavation of the vast 4th-century BC burial mound in Amphipolis town in search of more tombs and bodies. The first search of the site, which was built shortly af-

ter Alexander the Great's death, discovered and dug up a tomb containing a skeleton.

Greek Culture Minister Costas Tasoulas visited the burial mound in northern Greece on Saturday to announce the new phase of the exploration.

Geophysicists are scanning the site to see if there are other structures besides the splendid, three-chamber tomb discovered in August. The area being scanned is about one-seventh of the total of 2 hectares (5 acres) that the mound covers.

One goal is to try to calcu-

late the discovered skeleton's gender and age. Identifying it may never be possible, even if its DNA is checked, said Lina Mendoni, the culture ministry's general secretary.

Speculation on the identity has been rife among experts, including speculation that it was Alexander's

mother, widow, son, half-brother, or Nearchos, one of Alexander's closest aides and an Amphipolis native.

Meanwhile, archaeologists are still uncovering multi-colored decorations found inside the dug up tomb. Lasers will be used to study them, Mendoni said.

AP Exclusive: Letter that inspired Kerouac found

JOHN ROGERS

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It's been called the letter that launched a literary genre — 16,000 amphetamine-fueled, stream-of-consciousness words written by Neal Cassady to his friend Jack Kerouac in 1950.

Upon reading them, Kerouac scrapped an early draft of "On The Road" and, during a three-week writing binge, revised his novel into a style similar to Cassady's, one that would become known as Beat literature.

The letter, Kerouac said shortly before his death, would have transformed his counterculture muse Cassady into a towering literary figure, if only it hadn't been lost.

Turns out it wasn't, says Joe Maddalena, whose Southern California auction house Profiles in History is putting the letter up for sale Dec. 17. It was just misplaced, for 60-some years. It's being offered as part of a collection that includes papers by E.E. Cummings, Kenneth Rexroth, Robert Penn Warren and other prominent literary figures. But Maddalena believes the item bidders will want most is Cassady's 18-page, single-spaced screed describing a drunken, sexually charged, sometimes comical visit to his hometown of Denver.

"It's the seminal piece of literature of the Beat Generation, and there are so many rumors and speculation of what happened to it," Maddalena said.

Kerouac told The Paris Review in 1968 that poet Allen

Ginsberg loaned the letter to a friend who lived on a houseboat in Northern California. Kerouac believed the friend then dropped it overboard.

"It was my property, a letter to me, so Allen shouldn't have been so careless with it, nor the guy on the houseboat," he said.

As for the quality of the letter, Kerouac described it this way: "It was the greatest piece of writing I ever saw, better'n anybody in America, or at least enough to make Melville, Twain, Dreiser, Wolfe, I dunno who, spin in their graves."

It turns out Ginsberg apparently was trying to get it published when he mailed the letter to Golden Goose Press in San Francisco. There it remained, unopened, until the small publishing house folded.

When it did, its owner planned to throw the letter in the trash, along with every other unopened submission he still had in his files.

That was when the operator of a small, independent music label who shared an office with publisher Richard Emerson came to the rescue. He took every manuscript, letter and receipt in the Golden Goose Archives home with him.

"My father didn't know who Allen Ginsberg was, he didn't know Cassady, he wasn't part of the Beat scene, but he loved poetry," said Los Angeles performance artist Jean Spinosa, who found the letter as she was cleaning out her late father's house two years ago. "He didn't



This 1962 file photo, left, shows Beat Generation writer Jack Kerouac; and, right, this image provided by the Profiles in History auction house shows the cover of an auction catalog, featuring several pages of what has become known as "The Joan Anderson Letter," some 16,000 Benzedrine-fueled, stream-of-consciousness words written by Neal Cassady to his friend Jack Kerouac in 1950.

Associated Press

understand how anyone would want to throw someone's words out."

Although she knew who Kerouac and Cassady were, Spinosa had never heard of "The Joan Anderson Letter," the name Kerouac gave it for Cassady's description of a woman he'd had a brief romance with.

"It's invaluable," historian and Kerouac biographer Dennis McNally said. "It inspired Kerouac greatly in the direction he wanted to travel, which was this spontaneous style of writing contained in a letter that had just boiled out of Neal Cassady's brain."

It was a style he would put to use in the novels "On The Road" and "Visions



of Cody," which featured Cassady, thinly disguised under the names Dean Moriarty and Cody Pomeroy, as their protagonists. He'd continue to use it in such books as "The Subterraneans," "The Dharma Bums" and "Lonesome Traveler," cementing his reputation as the father of the Beat Generation.

Cassady would gain some small measure of fame as Kerouac's muse and, later, as the sidekick who drove novelist Ken Kesey's Merry Pranksters bus across the U.S. Meanwhile, about a third of "The Joan Anderson Letter," copied by someone before it disappeared, became well-known to students of Kerouac. □



Billy Joel, performs after receiving the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song, at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014.

Associated Press

Billy Joel to set Madison Square Garden record

NEW YORK (AP) — Billy Joel will set a record for the most performances by any artist at Madison Square Garden with his upcoming 65th show scheduled for this summer.

The 65-year-old piano man will surpass the record set by his former tour mate Elton John with a show on July 1, which will be part of his residency at the New York venue. Tickets for the record-breaking show, as

well as his performances scheduled in May and June, will go on sale to the general public on Saturday.

The Grammy-winning artist was announced last year as the first-ever music franchise of the Garden. The July 1 show will be the 19th performance as a part of the residency, which has included monthly concerts from the singer songwriter throughout 2014. □

John Stamos lights up Elvis Presley's Graceland

ADRIAN SAINZ

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Sporting Elvis Presley-like sideburns, actor John Stamos helped flip the switch on the colorful display of holiday lights adorning Graceland, Presley's home-turned-museum in

Memphis. Stamos joined hundreds of fans who came to Graceland on Friday night to watch yellow, red and blue lights illuminate the large front yard of Presley's former home.

Stamos is best known for roles on TV shows such as "General Hospital," "Full

House" and "ER." He said after the ceremony that he shaved a beard he had been wearing but kept the sideburns for his appearance at Graceland.

Stamos has close ties to Graceland: His voice is featured on the iPad tour of the home. □

'Mad Men' creator to receive honorary Int'l Emmy



In this June 20, 2011, file photo, Matthew Weiner, creator of "Mad Man," accepts the award for best drama series at the inaugural Critics' Choice Television Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

CHARLES J. GANS
Associated Press

"Mad Men" stars Christina Hendricks and John Slattery will be presenting a special award to the show's cre-

ator and executive producer Matthew Weiner at the International Emmys Gala.

Weiner will be receiving the honorary International

Emmy Founders Award at Monday night's ceremony at the Hilton New York.

The presentation to Weiner will be the centerpiece

'Blind Massage' big Golden Horse winner in Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — A Chinese-French film about blind masseurs and Chinese actor and director Chen Jianbin scooped the most accolades at Taiwan's 51st Golden Horse movie awards, considered the Chinese-language equivalent of the Oscars. "Blind Massage" from Chinese director Lou Ye won six of the seven categories it had been nominated in, including best feature film, best cinematography and best sound effects. The film, adapted from a novel, centers on the lives of workers in a massage parlor in China's Nanjing city. The other big winner on Saturday evening was Chen, 44, who won best lead actor and best new director for "A Fool" — a film about a Chinese farmer who meets a homeless man and takes him home — as well as best supporting actor for his role in Taiwanese military drama "Paradise in Service."

Also at the awards ceremony in Taipei, Ann Hui won her third Golden Horse best director award for "The Golden Era," which portrays the turbulent life of Chinese writer Xiao Hong. The film had been nominated in five categories. Hui said her win was a surprise and she would have preferred her actress, Tang Wei, to win in the best lead actress category. Instead, the award went to a lesser known actress, Chen Shiang-chyi, for "Exit." "I feel like I have made it, to be able to win this award for Taiwan. I love Taiwan films and I dedicated this for Taiwan," said Chen in her acceptance speech. Chinese director Diao Yinan's "Black Coal, Thin Ice," a detective thriller set in northern China that won the Berlin International Film Festival's main Golden Bear prize this year, won the award for best art direction. It had been nominated in eight categories.



Director and actress Joan Chen poses on the red carpet at the 51st Golden Horse Awards in Taipei, Taiwan, Saturday, Nov. 22, 2014.

Associated Press

The Golden Horse film festival celebrates Chinese-language cinema, and the awards are the most prestigious in the greater China region.

A total of 38 films were nominated for 21 awards this year. There was a total of 364 entries, 100 more than last year.

of the awards ceremony, hosted by British comedian Matt Lucas.

A total of 40 nominees from 19 countries will be competing in 10 categories for International Emmys, established to honor excellence in TV programming outside the U.S.

Britain led with six nominations, including best actor and actress nods for Stephen Dillane and Olivia Colman for their roles in popular crime dramas. Brazil had five nominations, while Argentina, Canada and Japan each had three.

'Mockingjay, Part 1' opens with \$123 million



In this image released by Lionsgate, Jennifer Lawrence portrays Katniss Everdeen in a scene from "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1."

Associated Press

JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — "Mockingjay, Part 1" didn't catch fire like the previous installments of "The Hunger Games," but it still had the biggest opening of the year with \$123 million at the weekend box office, according to studio estimates Sunday. Lionsgate's "Mockingjay" opened well below the \$158 million debut of last year's "Hunger Games: Catching Fire" and the \$153 million opening of the 2012 original. But even with a \$30-million-plus slide in the franchise, "Mockingjay" far surpassed the previous top weekend of the year: the \$100 million debut of "Transformers: Age of Extinction."

The result made for some unusual ironies. The biggest opening of the year (and by a wide margin) was seen by some as a disappointment. After initial box office receipts of "Mockingjay" rolled in Friday suggested a weekend take below expectations, Lions Gate Entertainment's stock

dipped 5 percent.

But the decision to split the final book in Suzanne Collins' dystopian trilogy into two films was clearly lucrative for Lionsgate. "Mockingjay" did even better overseas, where it made \$152 million over the weekend, accounting altogether for a \$275 million global opening. "It's the biggest opening of the year, so it really illustrates the strength of the franchise," said David Spitz, head of distribution for Lionsgate, noting the North American opening was the 15th best ever. Spitz declined to answer questions about Wall Street's reaction to the opening, or what the effect may have been of splitting the third book in two. Dividing the book pushed much of the big drama of "Mockingjay" to the second film, scheduled for release in November 2015. On the same November weekend in 2010, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1" — which similarly split the series' last book into two — opened almost identically with \$125 million.

Do Politicians Love Kids?



Nicholas Kristof
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We Americans love children. Indeed, we love them so much that, on average, child care workers earn almost as much per hour (\$10.33) as workers who care for animals (\$10.82), according to a new study from the University of California, Berkeley.

We love them so much that only 38 percent of American 3-year-olds are enrolled in education programs. The average is 70 percent among the 34 industrialized countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

So if politicians are genuinely looking for a bipartisan issue to break through the Washington gridlock, here's a suggestion: invest in early education.

A poll over the summer found that 71 percent of voters supported a major federal investment in early education, including huge majorities of Democrats, Republicans and independents alike. Leaders in doing this have been tinted both blue (New York City) and red (the State of Oklahoma) - as well as camouflage green (the U.S. military has an excellent preschool program).

Jim Messina, the campaign manager for President Barack Obama in 2012, and Kevin Madden, a senior adviser to Mitt Romney's rival campaign that year, this month wrote a joint memo advocating that both parties back investments in early education.

"Perhaps the biggest political opportunity for both parties lies in the nonpartisan issue of early childhood education," Messina and Madden wrote.

Early education is the low-hanging fruit of public policy. It has the approval in principle of both Obama and House Speaker John Boehner, and abundant research suggests that early help for disadvantaged children could chip away at inequality, save public money and help those children reach the starting line.

I dropped in the other day on James Heckman, an owlish University of Chicago professor and Nobel Prize-winning economist who is the leading scholarly advocate of early interventions. He's a numbers geek who advocates investing in early childhood programs simply because that is where society gets the most bang for the buck - returns of 7 percent

to 10 percent per year, by his calculations.

Heckman argues that the cheapest way to reduce crime is to invest in early childhood programs for at-risk kids. He has crunched the numbers and found that to get the same reduction in crime by adding police officers would cost at least five times as much.

At 70 and showing no signs of slowing down, Heckman co-authored two major studies published in Science this year that underscored that the real question isn't whether we can afford early education initiatives, but whether we can afford not to provide them:

- One follow-up found that adults who, as disadvantaged children, had been randomly assigned to attend an excellent preschool were much healthier than those who had been randomly assigned to the control group.

Now in their mid-30s, the men who had gone to the preschool had average blood pressure of 126 over 79; the controls were a much more worrisome 143 over 92. Those men who had attended the preschool were less than one-third as likely to be severely obese. Because they were also doing better in life, those preschool graduates were far more likely to have health insurance.

- Another follow-up looked at adults in Jamaica who 20 years earlier had been growth-stunted toddlers. At that time, some had been assigned to a control group and some to get a weekly one-hour visit from a health aide who coached parents on doing more to engage their children. Again, the results were stunning. Those who as children had been in the group getting the weekly visits were less likely to commit violent crimes than those in the control group. They stayed in school longer, and they earned 25 percent more as adults.

"It blew me away," Heckman said of the Jamaica study. What was remarkable was how simple and low-cost the assistance was - a one-hour weekly visit by a health aide - yet it changed the lives of the children who participated.

"Early education" isn't just about pre-K but rather an umbrella term for all interventions between pregnancy and age 5. Some of the most effective seem to occur during pregnancy and infancy, counseling at-risk women not to drink, smoke or take drugs while expecting, and then after birth, helping them breast-feed and read to the child, while avoiding lead paint and other toxins.

Why are these early interventions so effective? Apparently because the first few years are the window when the brain is forming and when basic skills like self-control and grit are developed.

Washington will probably be a discouraging gridlocked mess for the next couple of years. But here's a rare issue where it's just conceivable that we could make progress and build a stronger and more equitable future for our nation.

If our politicians really do love children, here's a way to prove it. □



Tough Times for Penguins



Gail Collins
© 2014 New York Times News Service

Scientists say that fur seals in the Antarctic are having sex with the penguins.

This may have been going on for some time. A South African research team has published a paper on it, "Multiple Occurrences of King Penguin Sexual Harassment by Antarctic Fur Seals." There's also a video featuring a rather large seal and a really unhappy looking bird.

"This may be an emergent behavior," the team wrote ominously.

I am bringing you this disturbing news because it may make you feel better about politics, Congress and the general state of the nation. True, virtually everything that's happened since the election suggests things are going to get worse rather than better. But hey, at least we're not being governed by seals.

All this brings us to Washington, where congressional leaders from both parties have been making copious promises about seeking common ground. Generally, the specifics end with some vague reference to doing "tax reform."

"Reagan and Tip O'Neill saved Social Security for a generation, did the last comprehensive tax reform. We need to do that again," said Mitch McConnell, the next Senate majority leader, in his pae-an to bipartisan cooperation.

Reagan and Tip O'Neill agreed

to the largest peacetime tax increase in U.S. history. Do you think that's what McConnell has in mind? Otherwise, one is forced to consider the possibility that he is making things up. The Democrats and Republicans are definitely in accord about the need for tax reform. However, given the fact that they disagree completely about what that reform should entail, chances of progress do not seem great.

But maybe wishing can make it so. Even as young fur seals are apparently compensating for the shortage of mating partners by looking at a king penguin and imagining that it is a female seal. On Thursday, President Barack Obama is expected to announce he's protecting millions of undocumented immigrants from deportation through use of his executive power. And that will probably be the end of the talk of amity. The Republicans feel that if Obama usurps the congressional prerogative to make immigration policy, he will have poisoned the well, waved the red flag and generally ruined all the possibility for a new era of cooperation. They were saying that all this week, as they worked feverishly to pass a bill that would override the executive branch's power to grant permits for projects that cross the national border.

That would be the Keystone pipeline bill. It failed when Senate supporters fell one vote short of the 60 needed to stop a Democratic filibuster. This happened on the same day that a bill to get the federal government out of the business of collecting citizens' phone records died in a Republican filibuster.

Yes, people, both parties did it. However, since the Republicans are the ones promising to usher in a new order, we are going to pay special attention to them.

"I thought we had a new day coming, when McConnell said he wanted to go back to the regular order of having votes, and amendments and all," said Patrick Leahy, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

This was in a phone interview, so it was hard to determine conclusively whether Leahy was being somewhat wry.

"He said the next few weeks would set a positive tone for Congress," Leahy said.

Leahy's bill, the USA Freedom Act, was a response to the Edward Snowden leaks, particularly the revelation that the federal government is stockpiling everybody's phone records. It was the bipartisan product of six public hearings and painful negotiations that attracted the support of über-conservative senators like Ted Cruz of Texas and Mike Lee of Utah. One of its major features was a requirement that the call records stay with the phone companies. The National Security Agency could retrieve them, but it would have to be specific about whose calls were being traced and why they were needed.

McConnell led the battle to keep the status quo ("This is the worst possible time to be tying our hands behind our backs," he said). During the debate, after the minority leader finished his remarks, Leahy asked if he would respond to a few questions, but McConnell was already on his way out of the room.

"He said: 'I'm sorry but I don't have time.' In 40 years I'd never seen anybody do that," Leahy said.

Well, McConnell had been through a lot. The run-up to the debate on Leahy's bill was a preview of what the new Senate will have in store as it attempts to operate with a trio of young presidential hopefuls in its ranks. Cruz liked the bill and mentioned the Bill of Rights repeatedly. Marco Rubio of Florida hated the bill and summoned up the terror of terror. Rand Paul, that celebrated libertarian, attempted to have it all by announcing that he was voting with McConnell against the bill because it wasn't strong enough. But he did say he felt bad about it.

At least the seals never promised the penguins it'd be a new tomorrow. □

Shifting attitudes at play in Cosby allegations

JOCELYN NOVECK
AP National Writer

Tamra Wade struggled mightily over whether to go to the police more than a decade ago, when, she says, a trusted professor forced himself on her in an empty classroom. Ultimately she couldn't bring herself to do it. But if it happened now, she says, she'd be a lot bolder — not just because she's older, but because she feels there's less of a stigma connected to being a victim of sexual assault. And this, say advocates for sexual assault victims, may be one reason why the allegations against Bill Cosby have exploded into public consciousness now so much more than they did when they emerged a decade ago: an evolving cultural understanding of the crime of sexual assault, and increased empathy toward those claiming to be victims.

"I think our society really has changed," says Wade, a data analyst who now mentors young assault victims. "Ten years ago, it was much harder for a victim to get an audience listening to her. Now there's less of a stigma, and that gives people more confidence to come forward."

A key element in the cultural shift, say some advocates, have been a series of high-profile cases like the Penn State molestation scandal, stories of abuse in the military or the Catholic Church, and cases of date rape at university campuses. Particularly when a number of people come forward, it's harder for the public to ignore, they say. "People may have an easy time rationalizing away only one victim, but not when there are a number of them," says Scott Berkowitz, president of Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network in Washington, D.C.

In recent weeks, at least seven women have publicly accused the 77-year-old Cosby of sexual assault years ago. Cosby has not been charged in connection with any of the allega-

tions. Only one woman has filed suit — Andrea Constand, who sued in 2005 and settled for an undisclosed amount before the case went to trial.

Cosby's attorney, Martin Singer, has criticized previous "decades-old discredited allegations" and denied some others. He suggested in a Friday statement that Cosby's accusers may have another agenda.

"There has never been a shortage of lawyers willing to represent people with claims against rich, powerful men, so it makes no sense that not one of these new women who just came forward for the first time now ever asserted a legal claim back at the time they allege they had been sexually assaulted," Berkowitz, of RAINN, recalls when his organization, back in 1994, approached TV networks to air public service announcements

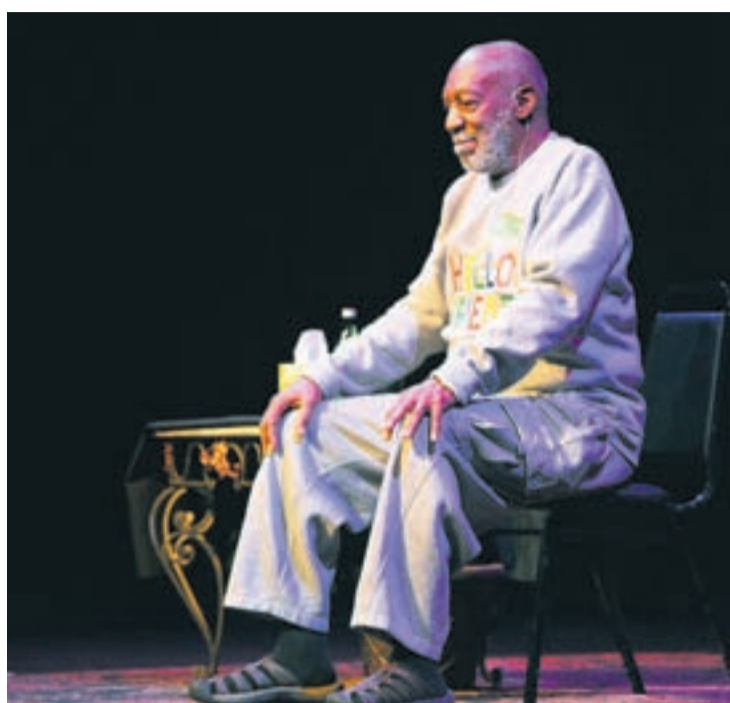


In this Nov. 6, 2014 file photo, entertainer Bill Cosby gestures during an interview about the upcoming exhibit, "Conversations: African and African-American Artworks in Dialogue," at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art, in Washington.

for its sex assault hotline; they resisted, he says, fearing the mere word "rape" would lead to complaints. Finally NBC agreed, and there were no complaints, Berkowitz says — in fact, there were thank-yous. Other networks followed suit.

"In the last decade, we've all been developing a greater awareness of just how common these crimes are," says Berkowitz.

Recent media coverage of the widening allegations



Comedian Bill Cosby performs during a show at the Maxwell C. King Center for the Performing Arts in Melbourne, Fla., Friday, Nov. 21, 2014.

against Cosby led to what RAINN said was a "significant increase" in calls to its National Sexual Assault Hotline — something that also happened after the Penn State case. But there's been a measurable

Ohio — and the fact that students on college campuses have been more vocal about their experiences. "There is definitely a sea change of sorts with these activists being very open," she says, also citing attention to the issue from Congress and from the White House, which recently launched "It's On Us," a public awareness campaign about campus sexual assault.

"The focus has been unprecedented," says Marsh. "We're seeing some overwhelming support." But at the same time, she notes, it remains exceedingly difficult to report a sexual assault, "particularly if the perpetrator is well-known, or powerful, or well-liked, whether it's a principal in a local community or a famous football coach." Marsh adds that often — as has been the case with some of the Cosby accusers — people delay reporting assaults: "They try to get on with their lives, and sometimes it's not until later that they realize they need to do something."

Sometimes it's too late. When Wade, now 44 and living in Phoenix, went to police 10 years later, she was told that the type of contact she alleged would constitute sexual assault — she hadn't known that, she says — but the statute of limitations had passed. (Such statutes vary greatly

from state to state.)

Out of every 100 rapes, only 40 get reported to police, RAINN says, citing Justice Department figures. Eight of those get prosecuted, and four lead to a felony conviction. The silver lining is that over the last 15 years or so, reporting rates have risen by a third. Some states have also lengthened or abolished statutes of limitations on prosecuting rape, especially when DNA evidence exists.

Christa Hayburn waited two years to report her alleged assault. It was complicated by the fact that she was a police officer and the man she was accusing of sexual assault was her superior — someone she looked up to and viewed as a friend. She describes an evening celebration with colleagues that led to the man allegedly forcing her into sexual activity in his car in the parking lot.

Hayburn, who was married with two children, complained to her superiors, and when the case got to the district attorney, the decision was made not to prosecute. "I was told that I didn't say 'No' enough," says Hayburn. The experience left her with the feeling that "It was already pre-conceived that I was a liar." After six years she was fired from the force; she now is a life coach.

Both Hayburn and Wade say they felt paralyzed, at the time, by the fact that the men they accuse of assault were mentor figures. "Even while it was happening, I was trying to fathom that it was happening with someone I respected and trusted," Wade says, seeing the parallels with some of Cosby's accusers who have said they were young, impressionable, ambitious and cowed by the entertainer's power and star status.

Though she says that in 10 years, she's seen "great improvement," Wade adds: "The reality is we have a long, long way to go before victims will feel comfortable telling and getting help." □